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NEW ECONOMY MINISTER ADDRESSES NATION

PY010150 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Address to the nation by Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille over radio and television from Buenos Aires -- recorded]

[Text] The main objectives of this new administration of the Economy Ministry are two-fold: reactivate economic growth and fight inflation. This is the beginning of a new administration, but it is also the continuation of the task of consolidating democracy and the national economy, a task that was initiated by the government which was elected by the people just over a year ago.

This is a task to which my predecessor, Bernardo Grinspun, gave his best with conviction and personal dedication. I want today to pay homage and recognition to him before the nation. The nation's president has entrusted me with the mission of proceeding with the task, and as I said when I took over the Economy Ministry, I have accepted it because I am one of the many Argentines, who identifies with the message of democratic affirmation and political renewal that was voted for by the people on 30 October 1983.

In discharging the duties of the position with which I have been honored, I will devote all my capacity, as well as that of my assistants, with the conviction that the challenge the Argentine nation and democracy have ahead of them is to reconcile political pluralism and social justice with the rational and efficient management of the economy. To make this possible, we have to begin speaking clearly.

I would not be acting responsibly if I were to keep to myself the information that flows into my office, If I were to play down the seriousness of the economic situation that we face. In addition to defaulting on my responsibility if I were to do so, I would be acting naively. The Argentines are a bright and alert people, and it would be useless to hide the problems we currently have behind rhetoric and semantics. It has been said with good reason that the major error in politics is not to err but to be irrelevant, that is, to beat around the bush and to ignore reality. I will try to speak frankly, and to offer explanations as many times as necessary.

The panorama of 1985 presents worrisome characteristics: Prices continue to rise all the time, with the subsequent impact on the buying power of salaries; the international prices of exports have been declining in recent months; rising inflation and problems that have interfered with the attainment of trade surplus goals have combined with the decline in the level of economic activities and the difficulties the Treasury faces in meeting the obligations that have accumulated. At the same time, the problems the country has had in recent years continue to exist in a latent state, including distributive push-and-pull among sectors, the foreign debt, and the drop in levels of investments.

We must begin to reverse this situation. The years of authoritarianism have taught the Argentines the bitter lesson that arbitration is the natural mechanism for discerning rights and equity. The present economic emergency which the country is now undergoing must encourage us to redouble our efforts so that democracy can also be the natural mechanism to overcome difficulties and to resume the path of economic growth. Democracy will take root among us if in addition to allowing the participation of the people, it can also prove that under its rules the country can function, find a direction, and move on.

If we can halt inflation, the country will start progressing; it will leave behind the longest period of stagnation in its history by allowing new investments, employment, and new opportunities for attaining well-being.

The task of economic growth today is mainly the struggle against inflation. I am not saying anything new. Inflation is a problem familiar to all of us and repeated calls to fight it have already been made.

The new part of this is that it is a democratic government which makes the call. The government is aware of the fact that the persistent inflation undermines all productive efforts and institutional stability itself. Inflation is our main problem. It is capable of defeating all our hopes because it causes to us conflict with each other and destroys the unity so much needed to face this emergency.

This is why a responsible attitude toward the recently recovered democracy calls for all of us, government and society, to follow and anti-inflation adjustment program. We are still capable of deciding on the magnitude and the period of time of the sacrifices we will have to make. The rejection of an adjustment will force the application of even more severe and costly measures.

Up to now the government has tried, and it will continue to do so, to obtain the support of all the sectors in the fight against inflation. For a long time Argentina has been a divided society and it threatens to continue as such if the attitude of its members remains unchanged. It is necessary to correct the shortcomings of the socioeconomic dialogue in such a way as to allow different sectors to integrate their own strategies to face our current problems. The government's initiatives are aimed toward this objective, thus creating a proper atmosphere for the socioeconomic dialogue, allowing economic policy decisions to be clearly perceived.

When the effects of the measures to be taken are felt, tensions will surely arise, but nothing will be gained by ignoring what must be done. The strength of democracy does not lie in its capacity to prevent conflicts, but in knowing how to handle them well. The government's task likewise is to establish clear and consistent rules and procedures. In this sense, and in reply to all the expectations arising from any cabinet change, I want to point out to you that I will be respectful of all previous commitments because it is not my intention to ignore all the efforts made up to this point, but I intend to intensify the existing dialogue so as to balance the demands of the different sectors and the government.

Therefore, we will comply with the decision of setting monthly wage adjustments at 90 percent of the previous month's rise in inflation and a 6-percent increase will be added to the March salary readjustment. The policy for making prices more flexible will continue, and we will prepare the ground for the summoning of the labor management wage committees.

These commitments, meant to preserve the purchasing power of salaries and the profits of the companies, represent a starting point for price and wage policies within an anti-inflation strategy. Together with these efforts, the government intends to make yet another contribution in order to render further credibility to its purposes.

I am referring to the reduction of the fiscal deficit through an effective control of public expenditures. In this regard I would like to make some observations. Several sectors clamor for a reduction of public expenditures as a tool to bring inflation down. To our consternation, that clamor is fueled by the conduct of some who compromise the image of the state in our society. For many, the return to democracy has meant having the opportunity to pressure the state to obtain jobs and benefits which most of the time overburden Treasury resources and create obligations that are difficult to meet.

This is a phenomenon well known to everyone. Besides the reasons given, all of this represents a heavy burden on the government's central administration. It is necessary that those behaving in this fashion become aware of the consequences of their actions, which inexorably affect the community through the issuance of paper money, thus fanning the inflationary process. This is not beneficial to the wage earners who have the least defense against inflation, nor is is beneficial for democracy.

Democracy cannot be viewed as an opportunity to gain individual advantage, but as a life-style that must be preserved, more so now that we are rebuilding it against the backdrop of a serious economic emergency. We must act with good sense, and so must those who clamor for a reduction of public expenditure. This is in fact our objective. Let us outline the cost that it will demand. Do all those who must share that cost know what it is? Are they willing to go along with us? Because it must be recognized that behind the public expenditures there are families, workers, middle class people, and enterprises. We already know of the failure of those who began their administration enthusiastically preaching against the state apparatus, and ended up expanding it. Instead of using simplistic arguments that are generally a way of sidestepping problems, we should consider the objective restrictions which caused that failure.

Let us say once and for all that the problem of public expenditures is a problem of society as a whole, not only a government problem. Having said this, I must say that the government will do its part to resolve it. In fact, the government began doing its part in 1984 by reducing about 13 percent of public expenses. We are determined to continue this effort without neglecting the attention due to basic needs. On the other hand, the government is firmly determined to demand that state enterprises operate efficiently and finance their own obligations. Thus, in the guidelines for March, the public utility fees have been readjusted according to the criterion that the cost must be covered and, in exceptional cases, that the unjustified deficits must be recouped. A program to eliminate, except in some strictly exceptional cases, the transfers from the Treasury to the state enterprises has been started. In 1985, Government Oil Deposits, State Gas, Telecommunications Enterprise, State Shipyard and Naval Factories, and North Patagonia Hydroelectric Company will not receive funds from the Treasury. During the current year, the government will announce the state enterprises that will receive identical treatment in 1986. These savings are also necessary because the government must carry the additional expenses represented by the servicing of interests on the foreign debt.

The society must understand that the foreign debt is not a question which exclusively concerns the government. Society must also make its contribution and assist the government in adjusting this debt which resulted from the irrational actions with which public business had been previously managed. Those responsible for the legacy we have received could be justly incriminated, but that will not change one iota the situation in which we find ourselves today and which we must assume with a spirit of justice. In this regard, we acknowledge the commitments arising from the foreign debt. Nobody has upheld nor will be able to responsibly uphold a different attitude. We will have to continue servicing the obligations agreed with the IMF and our creditors. But it is also the government's intention to continue, along with the signatory countries of the Consensus of Cartagena, a global discussion on the foreign debt issue.

The agreements on pricing and salaries, the control on public spending and, finally, a monetary policy that is more consistent and stable than the one we have recently experienced are the tools that we have at our disposal today to struggle against inflation. A central point is to rely on the search for a negotiated agreement among all. I believe that this is the best method to manage a society that has as many conflicts as the one in which we are living.

The country is experiencing an economic emergency. You know this as well as I do. It is up to us to overcome it. We must overcome it with realism, because it is there, obviously, in the experience of everyone; and with responsibility, that is, understanding that vis-a-vis the limitations of a reduced economy, not all the sectorial demands may be equally met. The facts demonstrate that this is not an easy enterprise. During 1984, the government cut back its expenses and curbed the deficit, yet inflation increased. This means that the simplistic approaches do not suffice and that we have a great task before us.

I admit that I am asking a great deal from all of you to overcome this serious economic emergency. I assume a firm commitment before the nation to equally distribute the burden. Our slogan is that all should make equal efforts. But there is nothing more harmful for this collective undertaking than the existence of unjustified provileges and troublesome situations.

The situation of the tax system is an eloquent example of the lack of equity since, owing to legal amendment and rising tax evasion, the taxes levied on consumer products clearly prevail in revenues collection. Today, such as the value added tax (IVA) internal revenue, and gross income tax [as heard] However, the collection of the profits and property taxes, which are the ones that best take into account the paying capability of the people, have significantly decreased.

Argentina, our country, which is not the poorest Latin American country, is, however, the one where the collection of the income tax in relation to the GDP is the lowest on the continent, barely 0.5 percent. In other words, the current system relies primarily on the medium- and low-income sectors. This injustice is also expressed in a high direct and indirect tax evasion. Regarding the IVA, there are 450,000 taxpaying enterprises, of which 450 contribute half of the total collected. Regarding income taxes, there are 16,000 taxpaying enterprises, from which 16 contribute 35 percent of the total collected. This is clearly negative. Equity not only means that those who have more pay more, but also that those who are in the same situation contribute equally.

In light of this situation, the government has proposed a tax reform which introduces this type of equity. This will be achieved through a more balanced tax system, where the fiscal burden tends to be better distributed, that is, that those who earn more consume more, and that those who possess wealth pay proportionally more. With this objective, the income tax on individuals and the tax on luxury items is strengthened. As a compensation, the taxes on consumption, like the IVA, will be reduced.

The tax reform also seeks to favor investments and savings, which are so necessary to recover the country's growth capability. Therefore, in the case of the IVA, norms that immediately allow for a deduction of the fiscal credit for capital goods investments are adopted.

At the same time that taxation on personal property is increased, taxes on capital investments are gradually decreased and profits on shares and dividends are exempted from taxes. This reform will be completed with norms that give further control powers to the Internal Revenue Directorate with a view to fighting tax evasion.

In all, these proposals, which will soon be sent to Congress, aim at distributing the taxation load in a more equitable manner, promoting productive investments, and aiding in the reorganization of public finances.

The situation of the finance system is another expression of what should be corrected in order to be able to overcome our economic emergency in an efficient and helpful manner.

The financial system is undergoing a severe crisis that affects [word indistinct] and (?feelings). It is an accumulative crisis that began years ago. A true reflection of that situation are the 150 financing companies that the Central Bank has had to close down or intervene in these last few years. Such a number merely demonstrates the seriousness of the crisis. Despite the intervention or closure of the companies, it cannot be denied that the system still needs reorganization. Ten percent of the finance companies that are currently operating concentrate approximately two thirds of all deposits, so therefore depostis available for the remaining 90 percent of the finance companies are very scarce. That is the reason a large number of finance companies have such a small volume of movement, which, in turn, makes them unprofitable.

We cannot close our eyes to these truths. The reorganization, and moralization of the system is then the most urgent and imminent task in paving the way for a rational and complete restructuring. The excessive number of branches and the high operational costs demand a planned and long-sustained action to alleviate the social cost the adjustment will demand. If the overgrowth of the system is not attacked with conviction and persistence, the survival of the productive sectors will be at risk because the real interest rates which are incompatible with a reasonable profitability of the enterprises, will force them to pay for the excessive physical expansion of the current financial apparatus. In this area we will act calmly and without dramatics, trying to find the technically most adequate solutions. But we will not retreat before self-serving arguments against the reform of the financial system on which the health of the country's productive sector depends.

The anti-inflationary policy is not the only objective we are pursuing: It is true that when the currency recovers its value, everyone will have the means to carry on his daily life more comfortably and to make future plans. For that very reason, because the reduction of inflation makes it possible to look ahead, it is necessary to have a more ambitious goal, that is, to emerge from the stagnation and recover the capacity to grow. This is our overall ovjective for the country: to develop ourselves and to improve the population's well-being. The question is to get the country moving again and to make it a stage for the personal fulfillment and accomplishments of each Argentine.

The government is committed to building a new political philosophy based on tolerance and the law, but it is equally committed to promoting a new economic philosophy that will again be focused on growth and modernization, which have been overshadowed long enough by short-term speculation.

The overall growth strategy outlined by the government early this year is based on exports and private investments. The emphasis on exports as a way to achieve growth is the inevitable consequence of the serious external restrictions the Argentine economy has been enduring as a result of its debt. We must increase our exports in order to pay the interest on our foreign debt and at the same time expand those imports necessary for our economic growth. Also, the country must recover its level of investments, which are the ultimate guarantee for a genuine process of sustained growth.

We must take into account that under the current inflationary situation, the country could not resort to procedures it had used in the past to reactivate its economy. The domestic market should be expanded on the basis of the impact that higher exports and private investments will have on demand. If exports and private investment do not increase, the domestic market will be paralyzed by inflation and stagnation.

The government has taken and will take administrative and other measures to promote the expansion of private investment and exports. These measures alone will be ineffective without stable prices, without a long-term strategy and a sound relative price structure which will encourage enterprises to commit their risk capital. The promotion program is designed to support profitable projects, not economically unsound projects or situations.

Regarding exports, we must give priority attention to agriculture, which is the immediately available source to which we can turn. The National Agricultural and Livestock Program will continue to receive our full support. We will also assign high priority to the production and export of energy products by expediting the exploration and exploitation of oil with the support of private enterprises, and by replacing oil with gas as a source of energy.

Industrial exports will be a basic goal in our industrial policy and we will soon issue an additional package of measures designed to promote these exports. To gain international markets, to maintain and to further them, is not just a trade policy issue, but requires a change of the industrial structure to make it more efficient and to apply new technologies to the production process. In this respect, our proposed policy of gradually eliminating obstacles and bans on imports will place special emphasis on the import of advanced technological equipment.

This growth program, this prospect for Argentina depends, I want to emphasize once again, on the reduction of inflation. The outcome of a battle cannot be known until the last minute, yet defeat can be predicted if one resorts to pessimism. We must combat pessimism which often overcomes us and makes us give up. I have confidence in our success. I believe we are going to halt inflation and put the country again on the road of growth and social progress. Yet it is not enough for me to have confidence. It is not enough for me to believe. You, too, must join this common task. I do not want to instill hopes with magic formulas or heroic remedies. I want to urge you to join this common task. Thank you.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH FRG OFFICIAL

PY281140 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2331 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM) -- Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today met with Juergen Moellemann. minister of state in the FRG Foreign Ministry, with whom, according to a spokesman for the visitor, he discussed political and economic cooperation between the two countries and President Raul Alfonsin's trip to the FRG, scheduled to take place sometime between September and October this year. Moellemann is passing through Buenos Aires en route to Montevideo, where he will represent his country at the inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti's constitutional administration on 1 March.

Upon leaving the Foreign Ministry together with FRG Ambassador to Argentina Hans Werner Finck von Finckenstein and other officials, a spokesman for the group said that the Central American status quo and the efforts of the Contadora Group to arrive at a fair and peaceful solution in that region had also been discussed in depth. The spokesman added that both Caputo and Moellemann had agreed on the need to continue making efforts to prevent any type of military intervention, and to ensure that no country other than the five involved would interfere. The spokesman of the FRG minister of state indicated on behalf of the latter that the solution to the Malvinas Islands conflict must be sought through bilateral talks. He concluded by denying that nuclear affairs had been discussed at this afternoon's meeting.

LEGISLATORS, UK MP'S SIGN FALKLANDS 'DOCUMENT'

PY010500 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0248 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb (TELAM) -- Senator Julio Amoedo (Justicialist Party, Catamarca Province) today confirmed that last week three Argentine legislators and three British parliamentarians signed a document in which they state their common points of view regarding the situation of the Malvinas Islands, taking into consideration Argentine sovereignty over the archipelago.

Amoedo explained that the document was signed in Washington by himself; Deputy Federico Storani, president of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies; and by former Labor Minister Juan Manuel Casella. The British MP's that signed it are Robert Harvey (Conservative), and George Foulkes and Bruce George, (Labor).

In the meeting sponsored by the University of Maryland, the representative of the Malvinas Islands in London, Alistair Cameron, was also present as an observer to explain the point of view of the islanders.

Senator Amoedo said that it was possible to include in the text of the document, with British approval, the possibility of negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom based on an open agenda, in which the sovereignty issue would be discussed, which is something that until the present the United Kingdom had not accepted.

The document, which was delivered to the embassies of the two countries in the United States envisages two proposals. One concerns leasing the islands to Great Britain with prior recognition of Argentine sovereignty. In this case, the respective Foreign Ministries will be in charge of setting the contract conditions, respecting, during that time period, the social and economic life of the kelpers.

Amoedo added that the second proposal confers the sovereignty to Argentina, and it allows for the islanders to administer themselves under the guarantee of a third country which, according to the will of the kelpers and of the British, could be the United States.

Amoedo reported that during the talks with the British several other proposals were rejected, particularly a British one that called for a shared sovereignty.

Amoedo explained that whichever of the two possibilities is accepted, the United Kingdom should first lif the exclusion zone around the islands, and Argentina should formally declare the cessation of hostilities. Amoedo believes that these conditions should be simultaneously complied with along with a recognition of Argentine sovereignty.

Amoedo stressed the fact that it is the first time that the two parts have talked concretely about a possible solution to the problem, which once failed by diplomatic means due to British intransigence.

Regarding the talks held last year in Vienna between Argentine and British legislators, Amoedo recalled that they failed because at that time it was thought that only by holding informal talks would the public and the British Parliament be influenced. What we gained, with British approval, is an open agenda negotiation, he said. He added that if a direct negotiation is carried out by the two countries, the respective committees in charge of them would be made up of British and Argentine legislators and not diplomats.

GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS POSITIONS 'IRRECONCILABLE'

PY271645 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Business groups participating in the socio-economic contract talks last night said the dfiferences between the government's economic proposal and the one presented jointly by labour and employers are irreconcilable and that the time has come "to choose one or the other."

The government received a further jolt yesterday when the unified CGT demanded official confirmation of President Raul Alfonsin's promises to set monthly wage adjustments at 90 percent of the previous month's inflation hike, to raise the minimum wage and to extend workers' education benefits to the high school level. The demand came after it was reported that Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo warned CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini over the weekend that the promises could not be met in full and that the labour confederation should be ready to find "ways of coming to an agreement" with the government.

Meanwhile, workers and technicians trying to stave off the closure of the Standard Electric plant continued their factory take over and the Textile Workers Association (AOT) said it would start mobilizing members to prevent further "mass lay-offs" in the industry and to counter "threats of closures by some factories."

Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) Vice-Chairman Gilberto Montagna reported after last night's meeting of businessmen that the differences between the two economic proposals "are fundamental and the result of totally opposed philosophical and economic ideas."

"We're not dealing anymore with reaching an agreement," said Montagna, "but rather to choose one or the other" proposal. Representatives of the 10 business groups participating in the contract talks attended last night's meeting, though unified CGT members did not. President Raul Alfonsin last January 10 presented the CGT and business with the government's contract proposal which is based on the five-year economic plan drafted by then Planning Secretary Juan Sourrouille, now economy minister.

Some 200 Standard Electric workers and employees continued their peaceful occupation of the telephone plant which began on Monday after reports surfaced that the International Telephone and Telegraph subsidiary would be shutting down. An unnamed Standard Electric executive, meanwhile, reported that the possible sale of the plant to the West German firm Siemens would be decided on by tomorrow. Though only 200 of the plant's 1,200 staff have taken over the factory in San Isidro, the remaining workers and employees are expected to join the occupation when they return from vacations next Monday. The Standard Electric executives blamed the firm's problems on the phone company (ENTeL) which, he said, owes it millions of dollars for telephone equipment purchases. Standard reportedly has an eight-million-dollar deficit dating back over the last two years.

The AOT directive council yesterday declared itself in "permanent session" in order to "continue studying the worrisome situation" in the textile industry, adding that it had requested urgent meetings with Barrionuevo and employers. The AOT also accused employers of holding back union funds used to provide workers with socio-medical benefits.

On other labour fronts, crews on the nation's petroleum shipping fleet began an indefinite work-to-rule protest that will restrict all transport from dawn to dusk on weekdays and from six to eleven on Saturdays.

The financially-troubled Friogar and Gualeguaychu meatpacking firms in Entre Rios remained closed yesterday with 500 workers still uncertain about their employment status.

Barrionuevo was expected to receive information yesterday from Construction Workers' Union (UOCRA) trustee Carlos Gonzelez Fernandez after the White List publicly accused the administrator of favouring rival lists in next month's internal polls.

PCA PROTESTS EXPULSION OF CHILEAN UNION LEADER

PY222155 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1633 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Feb (NA) -- The Communist Party's [PCH] Central Committee today demanded the immediate abrogation of the resolution that orders the expulsion from the country of Juan Yanez Garcia, who is a union leader with Chilean citizenship, and it emphasizes that his deportation to Chile places his life in danger. The Communist Party has termed Yanez Garcia's deportation as an "ultrareactionary measure" and it demands that the government "immediately abrogate the measure and release the leader."

Yanez Garcia was one of the top leaders of the construction workers who have carried out a long conflict in Neuquen. Yanez Garcia was arrested yesterday and his deportation was ordered under the accusation of having carried out political activities, in violation of the Foreigners Residence Law. Yanez Garcia was arrested at the local headquarters of the Workers Party.

Chilean Released

PY232040 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1743 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Neuquen (Argentina), 23 Feb (EFE) -- A spokesman of the Workers Party today confirmed that Chilean Juan Guillermo Yanez, a member of the Construction Workers Union of the Argentine Republic (UOCRA), whose expulsion has been ordered, was released on 22 February. The spokesman of this political party, of which Yanez is also a member, pointed out that after his release Yanez went to the UOCRA headquarters accompanied by over 100 union members to register his name as a candidate.

Yanez, who was arrested on 21 February on orders of the Interior Minister and released by Judge Juan Jorge Otegui just before midnight on 22 February, is facing legal action initiated by Neuquen Governor Felipe Sapag.

Yanez, who has been living in Argentina since 1977, has been accused of inciting the construction workers of Neuquen Province to strike in November 1984, and of an alleged participation in an attack against Governor Sapag.

Ministry Explains Expulsion

PY271113 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1146 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 26 Feb (NA) -- The Interior Ministry has ordered the expulsion from the country of Chilean citizen Juan Yanez Garcia, a Construction Workers Union leader, on account of the charges brought against him which "absolutely preclude his residing in Argentina" according to the immigration laws in force.

The Interior Ministry released a communique last night in which it explained the reasons for adopting the measure of expulsion, at the same time flatly rejecting "the bold charges of hindering labor union processes" brought against the ministry.

The communique reports that Yanez' case is being heard by the local criminal judge in Neuquen on the following counts: "for being suspected of having committed or conspired in serious threats, damages, attempts, and resistance (to arrest), and contempt to the authorities."

The document adds that based on those charges, the National Immigration Office has decided to cancel Yanez' temporary residence, deny him permanent residence, declare him an illegal resident, and order his expulsion from the country.

As a result of this last measure, Yanez was put under preventive arrest, and due to "immigration selection" reasons, the "aforementioned foreigner" is prohibited from "returning to the country."

SUSPECTED ITALIAN TERRORIST ARRESTED IN CORDOBA

PY221955 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1425 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cordoba, 22 Feb (NA) -- Judicial sources today confirmed the arrest here of the 41-year-old Italian neofascist Sandro Sacucci, whose arrested had been requested by the Interpol since he is suspected of participating in several terrorist attacks perpetrated in Italy and other European countries.

Sacucci's arrest has taken place about 15 days before the arrival in this province of Italian President Sandro Pertini, who will arrive in Cordoba on 13 March during his official visit to Argentina.

According to the sources, Sacucci is being held under arrest at the Federal Police Station at the disposal of Federal Court No 2 headed by Attorney Gustavo Becerra Ferrer.

No details were disclosed regarding the operation that led to his arrest and which allegedly took place on the night of Wednesday 20 February.

Denies Terrorist Links

PY272121 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Feb 85 p 7

[Text] Cordoba (NA-DYN) -- Former Italian neo-fascist deputy Sandro Sacucci yesterday denied he had any connection with local extreme rightwing groups and ridiculed reports he was linked to an alleged terrorist plot to kill Italian President Sandro Pertini when he visits Cordoba next month. And Federal Judge Gustavo Becerra Ferrer, who questioned Sacucci for more than an hour, said the former Italian legislator, who has lived in Cordoba for more than seven years, was not involved in any way with local politics.

SOVIET ROAD GRADERS FOR CHACO PROVINCE

PY281627 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1219 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Resistencia, 28 Feb (DYN) -- Chaco Province will acquire 10 Soviet road graders worth $1.123 million for the provincial highway and road department. This operation is part of the Argentine-Soviet agreement on supply of equipment, an agreement in which other Argentine provinces also participate.

BRIEFS

PRESIDENTIAL UNDER SECRETARY RESIGNS -- (NA-DYN) -- Presidential Undersecretary Dante Giadone has stepped down from his post, presenting his letter of resignation to his immediate superior, presidential secretary German Lopez, it was officially announces yesterday. The resignation was immediately accepted. Giadone will now serve as foreign trade adviser to President Raul Alfonsin. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Feb 85 p 7 PY]

PRESIDENT DEPARTS FOR URUGUAY, SAYS STRIKE OFF

PY281905 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo this morning transferred power to Julio Garret Ayllon, president of the national Congress. The chief executive will be absent from Bolivia for 10 days. During this period Senator Julio Garret Ayllon will be acting president. The transfer of power ceremony was a very simple one, similar to those that took place when Jaime Paz Zamora, the former vice president, became acting president for short periods of time Garret took over amid loud applause from numerous members of the Paz Estenssoro-led Historic Nationalist Revolutionary Movement.

Siles Zuazo left the country with a small entourage made up of the foreign minister, the information minister, and the chief of the military household. It has been reported that President Siles will return to Bolivia during the weekend. However, he will not resume power but take a brief rest before leaving for Brasilia. This is what President Siles Zuazo told our reporter when turning over power to Julio Garret Ayllon:

[Begin recording] You have seen that the (?workers) have given further proof of maturity and responsibility in reviewing their decision to stage a strike today. We are making efforts to overcome economic problems and this can only be achieved with the help of all Bolivians and especially those with greater resources. We will make another call to all political and labor sectors to discuss the ways and means to resolve the economic problems and their social and political consequences. As usual I am leaving the country imbued with faith in these great people I am much honored to represent. [end recording]

As everyone knows Uruguay is returning to democracy after many years of military governments. Siles Zuazo has a personal opinion about his trip to Montevideo.

[Begin recording] The fact is that this is mainly a formal visit on the occasion of transition from dictatorship to democracy [words indistinct] some time ago. The presidents present there will be together briefly and we will be extending greetings, participating in ceremonies, and responding to the Uruguayan Goverment's invitations. Therefore, I do not think that the atmosphere will be the most appropriate for meetings [words indistinct]. Nevertheless if there is a chance we will take it and will discuss things which interest not only us but also other South American countries facing similar situations. [end recording]

The journalists asked President Siles about two issues: certain labor sectors have asked for the president's resignation; and high-ranking government officials have reported that foreign and domestic forces are undermining the government's prestige and destabilizing the democratic process. Before leaving for Montevideo, this is what the president answered:

[Begin recording] Well, as to the reports, I believe that the statements of the interior minister were more than enough. As to the requests or alleged requests for the resignation of the president, the workers themselves have answered by deciding against sending large groups to La Paz. [end recording]

COB Issues Denial

PY281915 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] this morning denied that talks had been held on 27 February between the COB Executive Board and the government to discuss the lifting of the popular mobilization measures that have been adopted. It has been indicated that the report by an international news agency that President Siles Zuazo stated, during the ceremony in which he handed over the presidency to Julio Garret Aillon just before boarding a plane, that the COB had lifted the mobilization of its grassroots, was a false report. The dissemination of this report is intended to worsen the position that has been adopted due to the very critical economic situation, which seriously affects the worker.

It has also been reported that the resolutions adopted at the 12 February COB congress, at the Teachers Union headquarters in La Paz will be implemented due to the pressure applied by the organizations that make up the COB and also to the conflicts that have emerged during the past few weeks. The permanent session ordered by the COB's Executive Board intends to keep abreast of events in La Paz and throughout the country, where the struggle to defend the people's economy is escalating, according to COB leaders.

Armed Forces Warn Workers

PY011334 Paris AFP in Spanish 0155 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] La Paz, 28 Feb (AFP) -- General Simon Sejas Tordoya, commander in chief of the Bolivian Armed Forces, warned here today that the military will act quickly if the popular mobilization ordered by the COB results in damage to national property. He added that the Armed Forces will zealously safeguard the internal security of the country, however justified the actions in demand of rights or salary increases may be. Sejas Tordoya made his statement as the COB is organizing a great popular demonstration march for 4 March to repudiate the government's economic policy.

COMMUNICATION STRIKE VIRTUALLY ISOLATES COUNTRY

PY282330 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2231 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] La Paz, 28 Feb (EFE) -- Bolivia has been left virtually incommunicado, domestically and internationally, as a result of the Union of Workers of the National Telecommunications Company [ENTEL] demand that the government give better economic benefits to the workers. Outgoing international Telex and telephone services have been suspended and only international incoming telephone calls are relatively normal. ENTEL Secretary General Fausto Ardaya stated that ENTEL has decided to maintain emergency services and the channels used by international news agencies.

BOMB EXPLOSION DAMAGES AMERICAN BANK

PY281400 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] A medium-power bomb exploded at approximately 2300 last night in front of the Bolivian-American Bank at the corner of Camacho and Loayza Streets. The bomb inflicted considerable damage to the ground floor and shattered the windows of the 20-story building, as well as those of the buildings nearby. Pieces of glass continued falling several minutes after the explosion. Initial police reports indicated that whoever placed the bomb did so easily, because few pedestrians were present at that time of the night. The bomb was placed under the steel shutters which cover the bank windows facing Loayza Street. Although the bomb heavily damaged the furniture and equipment in the hall of the Bolivian-American Bank, officials of the bank reported that the valuable information stored in the computers was not damaged.

CONTINUING REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF UK ENVOY

Government Official Comments

PY281416 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The British Government is interested in having firsthand knowledge of the true Chilean situation. This statement has been made by Director of Bilateral Policy of the Foreign Ministry Raul (Schmid). (Schmid) thus referred to the visit that the person in charge of Latin American affairs in the British Government, William Harding, is currently making to Chile.

[Begin recording] [(Schmid)] Mr Harding is here on a visit that is part, as you know, of a tour through America. He will visit four countries and has come to gain firsthand knowledge of the true Chilean situation, because the British Government is interested in getting firsthand knowledge about the Chilean situation.

[Reporter] Why [words indistinct] the Chilean reality?

[(Schmid)] Because, as you know, all the countries of the world want to have good relations and, of course, in order to have its political [word indistinct] it is necessary to know the real situation in each country. [end recording]

(Schmid) added later that he does not have the slightest doubt that some international news agencies disseminate incorrect reports on the Chilean situation.

(Schmid) also reported that the talks between the British official William Harding and the Chilean authorities will last until tomorrow, since no conclusions were reached during the last meeting. (Schmid) noted that the relations between the two countries were discussed in general during the meetings with the British representative. He also stated that Chilean-British relations are absolutely normal.

[Begin recording] [(Schmid)] The meeting lasted just 1/2 hour.

[Reporter] But in general...

[(Schmid), interrupting] General questions concerning our bilateral relations.

[Reporter] What is the status of our bilateral relations?

[(Schmid)] The bilateral relations are absolutely normal. They are very positive. [end recording]

(Schmid) then stated that it had not been anticipated that there would be an inconclusive meeting with the British official, but that the timetable will be adjusted accordingly. (Schmid) also stated that in the meetings with the representative of the British Government an effort was made to cover several aspects of common interest.

[Begin recording] [(Schmid)] I have tried to cover all aspects of bilateral relations.

[Reporter] Have you reached an agreement on trade exchange?

[(Schmid)] No, we have covered all aspects, but [words indistinct] give you a detailed account. [end recording]

Questioned on why the British official William Harding is interested in holding private talks, (Schmid) replied that there are certain aspects which must be reviewed privately, while others can be discussed in public.

[Begin recording] [(Schmid)] Usually part of the information in diplomatic talks is confidential, and then we have the general information which can be disclosed. There are talks of a commercial-financial nature and on the cooperation received from organizations. There are important aspects to our foreign relations, for example, in the Antarctic sector there is a very close cooperation which we are interested in thoroughly coordinating. [end recording]

In this regard, (Schmid) emphasized that these contacts are of great importance.

Besides the talks held with government officials, William Harding is holding talks with other public sectors in the country, and with representatives of the Catholic Church.

Envoy Meets Political, Church Leaders

PY281945 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] William Harding, the British Foreign Office under secretary for Latin American affairs, this morning held meetings with representatives of political and union sectors, and with Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno. Harding held a 1-hour meeting with Msgr Fresno at the archbishop's residence.

At the end of the meeting and after Harding had left the site, declining to comment on the subjects discussed, the archbishop's office press department reported that during the meeting Fresno and Harding discussed issues such as church-government relations; the mutual respect which prevails in these relations; the work that the church is carrying out in the country; and its point of view about the real situation prevailing in Chile.

Prior to this meeting, the UK Foreign Office envoy held a meeting at the British Embassy with political leaders, including Federico Willoughby and Andres Allamand. Early in the afternoon he held meetings with political leaders Fernando Ochagavia, and German Riesgo. After these meetings the British envoy went to the British ambassador's residence where at this time he is holding a meeting with several political and union leaders.

Harding is scheduled to leave Chile tonight at approximately 2200, but before that he is scheduled to hold a press conference at 2115 at the Santiago International Airport. At this time he will disclose his views on the present situation in Chile, which is the main objective of his visit.

Comments on Talks

PY010120 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The British Government's envoy to Chile has stated that he has received very interesting and valuable information for his country. William Harding held meetings with top Chilean officials and with several public opinion sectors today. His basic objective was to learn about the true situation in Chile during his 2-day visit.

The under secretary of the British Foreign Office had a tight schedule of meetings with political and trade union leaders.

Regarding his silence, Harding stated that he is a diplomat and not a politician. He also revealed that all his talks were confidential. Nonetheless, he noted that he felt very satisfied about the task he carried out in our country. Harding stated that the information that he was able to gather was very interesting and valuable for his government.

William Harding met with Juan de Dios Carmona, Federico Willoughby, Andres Allamand, Jaime Tormo, Luis Cordero, and Luis Angel Santibanez. The former president of the National Youth Secretariat reported that he discussed with the British official several aspects of the national reality.

In turn, former senator and ambassador to Spain, Juan de Dios Carmona, stressed the need for foreign authorities to gain direct knowledge of the national situation, adding that the national situation was being distorted by the foreign news media.

For his part, Andres Allamand stated that the talk held with Harding was very similar to the one held with U.S. Government envoy Langhorne Motley, who visited the country last week. Allamand also stated that Harding was very clear and precise in stating that his visit did not mean any type of intervention at all since he only came to listen and to learn. Regarding the issues discussed, Andres Allamand stated that all those issues of national interest were discussed.

The British official also held a meeting with Santiago archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno, but he refused to make any comments concerning the subjects discussed. However, the report issued by the archbishopric termed the meeting as very cordial and aimed at reporting on the Chilean situation and the task of the church in our country.

In addition, William Harding met with Fernando Ochagavia, Carmen Saenz, and other national leaders. Afterward, he met with trade union and political leaders at the residence of UK Ambassador John Hickman. This was his last activity. Those who attended the meeting defined William Harding as a diplomatic official who essentially knows how to listen to all the concepts, but maintained a relative reserve on hearing such concepts.

Labor Leaders Comment

PY010400 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Labor and other sectors of the country met today with the envoy of the British Government, Sir William Harding, at a lunch in the residence of the British ambassador.

The under secretary for South American affairs talked with nine representatives of national circles for 2 hours: Ramon Silva Ulloa, Mario Patia, Armando Jaramillo, Eduardo Jara, and Jorge Jimenez, who attended the lunch along with labor leaders Manuel Bustos, Hernan Flores, and Ernesto Foyia.

After the lunch, some of those who attended spoke briefly with the press. The vice president of the Textile Workers Federation, Manuel Bustos, said that they have informed the British envoy of the situation the country is experiencing.

[Begin recording] We attended this lunch to exchange some viewpoints with this minister who came from Great Britain, and we told him our opinion as leaders of the Workers Command on the social and political situation, from our point of view. It was interesting. [end recording]

The president of the civil servants, Hernan Flores, said that they told Under Secretary Harding about the problems and difficulties affecting Chile.

[Begin recording] We told him about our problems and the difficulties affecting Chile so that he can realize the significance of the restrictions, the state of exception we are living under, the state of siege, the limitations of public liberties, particularly the lack of freedom of expression in Chile. He expressed criticism of the lack of freedom of the press, but in general he did not voice any opinion, except to express his thanks for the information we gave him, and that he would make a statement upon his departure from Chile, that he would give a press conference at the airport. [end recording]

After this meeting, Sir William Harding concluded his meeting with national spokesmen of the various sectors. Tonight, before continuing with his tour to Peru and Venezuela, the British diplomat will talk with journalists to give them the impressions he received during his 2-day visit to Chile.

MERINO EMPHASIZES PRESSING NEED TO EXPORT

PY281410 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic, along with the members of the government junta, has reviewed the reasons which led to the devaluation of the peso. This was stated by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino after the meeting with the chief executive at La Moneda Palace. The meeting lasted 2 hours, and the agenda was revealed by the high-ranking Navy officer.

[Begin recording] The meeting was held to review the current economic situation, the reasons for another devaluation, and the current strength of the dollar which makes it extremely difficult for all the countries of the world to export finished products and raw materials. A way to overcome this problem is being sought, because now the choice for Chile is: Either we export, or we die. The problem is to export. If possible, we should even export air. For this to be done with ease, we worked on the idea of creating an agency which actually allows exporters to export with the best possible facilities and (?expediency). [end recording]

OPPOSITION LEADERS HOLD PANEL DISCUSSION

PY282340 Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Florence, Italy, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Chilean Christian Democrat Rodomiro Tomic told AFP today that an agreement among the Chilean opposition is fundamental in order to promote the downfall of the dictatorship in his country and to make way for a broad consensus government.

Tomic, who ran in the presidential elections for his party in 1970, participated, together with 21 other Chileans as well as other people, in a panel discussion sponsored by the municipality of Florence to discuss the crisis of the political system and the transition to democracy in Chile. The discussions started yesterday and ended today.

During the panel meeting Tomic said that most of the governments in his country had been sustained by minorities, including those of Alessandri, Allende, and Pinochet. Therefore it is now necessary to attain unity among the various opposition political sectors in order to form an emergency government when the current regime is ousted, he added.

When AFP asked Tomic whether the executive board of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] shared his views about unity with the opposition (which could possibly mean an alliance with the Communists, which is something that the PDC had always rejected) Tomic dryly replied that the question should be addressed to the party executive board, and made no further comments. However, he recalled that the PDC and the Democratic Alliance, to which his party belongs, promote several forms of unity with the other political, labor union, social, and cultural sectors of the opposition.

Former Communist Senator Volodia Teitelboim, who currently lives in Moscow, and Julio Subercaseaux, secretary general of the Republican Right Party, who lives in Chile, agreed with Tomic on the need to foment unity among the diffent opposition sectors in order to fight against Pinochet's regime.

Teitelboim stated that the recent visit to Chile of U.S. envoy Motley represents a considerable U.S. backing for Pinochet. He said that in this manner the possibility of the United States contributing to the restoration of Chilean democracy is ruled out, as is its participation in establishing a dialogue with the regime, something for which the PDC had great expectations.

In turn, Subercaseaux stated that it is necessary to reorganize the opposition, allowing self-criticism and proposing new formulas. The most harmful aspect for the opposition is the lack of an authentic leader, Subercaseaux said. He replied with a categorical no to the possibility of establishing a dialogue with the dictatorship and he confirmed his party's will to form an alliance with the Communists and Socialists.

Socialist Carlos Briones, secretary general of one of the socialist parties and former interior minister in Salvador Allende's administration, believes that it is necessary to arrive at a national consensus over basic issues in order to pave the way to democracy. Three basic issues that are fundamental to Briones are forming a single national opposition, signing the constitutional pact that is currently being made, and establishing government-social-economic contract talks. The constitutional pact, Briones explained, is meant to establish a minimum consensus and a solemn commitment of all the parties to fight for the restoration of democracy and to maintain it.

Patricio Hales, secretary of the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP], which is made up of Communists, Socialists, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], and the United Popular Action Movement [MAPU], denied that there is a lack of leadership in his party, as some Chilean labor union leaders had denounced before in Florence. Hales added that the MDP is pleased at the idea of signing the constitutional pact that is currently being discussed by all political sectors. However, Hales said that the MDP also believes in the need to establish constitutional bases deeper than tnose of the pact, such as a democratic conception of the Armed Forces and a real concensus regarding the eradication of the national security doctrine.

GUERRILLA LEADERS COMMENT ON PEACE PROCESS

M-19 Seeks National Referendum

PA281832 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2111 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, 27 Feb (REUTER) -- A Colombian guerrilla group today called for a national referendum to safeguard the peace process, which it described as "weakened." According to the 19 April Movement [M-19] guerrillas, the most active Colombian seditious group until it signed a truce with the government in August, the dialogue with the government, which was opened 4 months ago to implement vast political and social reforms, is not advancing.

M-19 leader Antonio Navarro Wolff, a member of the organization's five-member high command, has accused the government of not fulfilling its promises and freezing the peace process which is under pressure from opponents of the democratization policy.

"The political and social reforms set forth in the truce agreement no longer need be submitted to the government or the Congress because they are not interested. We must appeal directly to the people through the people's vote," he told REUTER. According to him, if the government rejects this idea, the M-19 will still proceed with the consultation using its own resources.

M-19 on Seizure Anniversary

PA282305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2230 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Report by Margarita Meza]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 26 Feb (EFE) -- According to the 19 April Movement (M-19), the seizure of the Dominican Republic's Embassy in Bogota 5 years ago was the first step toward the signing of the cease-fire agreements with the Colombian Government.

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of this action, Antonio Navarro Wolff, member of the M-19 high command, told EFE that "the embassy action shaped a period of struggle for human rights and political freedoms that made the holding of a national dialogue possible."

The guerrillas seized the Dominican Embassy in Bogota on 27 February 1980, in an action staged by the Marcos Zambrano Command. The operation was led by Commander Uno, Rosemberg Pabon, a schoolteacher who today is a member of the organization's high command.

According to Navarro Wolff, "this incident, while not obtaining a specific result, strengthened a number of activities searching for a different path than that of national security."

"The early struggles were brought together and a new political phase began giving shape to the truce and dialogue agreements, thus showing that the country's majority wants democracy," the M-19 spokesman indicated.

Although the M-19 admits that today's political situation is more open than it was 5 years ago, it feels "that the peace process has retrogressed in recent days because the dialogue is endangered by a lack of support from the government."

New leadership must be brought in since none of the candidates with any chance of winning has promised to duly fulfill the peace process if he reaches the presidency," Navarro Wolff said while commenting on the government's demand that they must turn in their weapons if they want to participate in active politics.

The M-19 views the seizure of the Dominican Embassy as the starting point of the dialogue that led to a truce between the Colombian Army and the guerrillas, but which is now experiencing problems in the face of "reforms that must be carried out in the economic, political, and social areas."

"It became clear to us that our greatest challenge was not military, but political. Through our action we had to win over national and international public opinion," Commander Uno says now. Although he directed the Dominican Embassy operation, under the current peace agreements, his movement now rejects kidnapping.

ELN Justifies Kidnappings

PA281942 Paris AFP in Spanish 1316 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Bogota, 27 Feb (AFP) -- The pro-Castro Army of National Liberation (ELN) asserted today that peace has failed in Colombia and justified the kidnapping of individuals as a form of political struggle.

The leaders of this subversive group, which emerged in Colombia around 1964, reiterated on television that under no circumstances will they engage in a peaceful dialogue with the government.

Commander Humberto, who appeared on television with his face covered and surrounded by armed ELN members, said that the peace process promoted by President Belisario Betancur's government has failed.

"It has failed because military repression continues, Colombia's social problems have increased, and the militarization of the peasant zones grows each day," the guerrilla leader explained.

After justifying kidnapping as a form of political struggle, he disclosed that there are presently 136 kidnapped people in Colombia and 316 missing. "Kidnapping is our response to the disappearances," he said.

The ELN leader, who granted this interview to the "7 O'Clock Newscast," revealed that the ELN members who kidnapped President Betancur's brother, jurist Jaime Betancur, in 1983 had been expelled from the organization.

He admitted that Jose del Carmen Yepes, a Peace Commission member, had been "executed," as he put it, on 13 February because, according to Humberto, he had become an informer.

BRIEFS

COAL EXPORTS -- Colombia began exporting thermal coal of the best quality from the El Cerrejon-Norte mines in La Guajira with a 35,000-ton shipment to Denmark on Tuesday abroad the Giovanni, a Liberian flagship. A similar shipment will soon be sent to the United States. In total, Colombia will export 3 million tons of thermal coal this year. This represents approximately $120 million, with an average price of $40 per ton. [Excerpt] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Feb 85 p 8A PA]

SHULTZ MEETS WITH FEBRES CORDERO IN GUAYAQUIL

PA010153 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero and U.S. Secretary of State Goerge Shultz met today in Guayaquil. Shultz arrived here at 1300. Febres Cordero and Shultz met in the presidential suite of the Ecuadoran Air Force base and discussed economic and political topics concerning Ecuador and Latin America.

The meeting was also attended by Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Edgar Teran Teran and Langhorne A. Motley, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs of the U.S. Government.

Febres Cordero and Shultz held a press conference at 1430. Later, Shultz continued on to Uruguay, where he will represent his country at the inauguration of President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

VICE PRESIDENT, FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVE FOR URUGUAY

PA010035 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Ecuadoran Vice President Blasco Penaherrera will travel today to Uruguay to attend the presidential inauguration in that country. Penaherrera will participate in the ceremonies, representing the national government; he will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Edgar Teran. The delegation will leave from Guayaquil, aboard an Argentine Airlines aircraft.

[Quito Radio Quito in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 28 February in a later report states: "Vice President Blasco Penaherrera and Foreign Minister Edgar Teran left Guayaquil at 1500 today to represent the Ecuadoran Government at the inauguration of Uruguayan President-elect Julio Sanguinetti."]

Meanwhile, National Congress President Raul Baca and Supreme Court of Justice President Gonzalo Cordova sent letters to President Leon Febres Cordero excusing themselves for not comprising the delegation that will leave for Brazil to participate in Dr Tancredo Neves' inauguration as president of that country. After expressing thanks for the invitation, Baca Carbo, who will be sworn in today as acting vice president of the Republic, said in his message that the president's attendance at such a transcendental event will reaffirm Eduador's support for the democratization process currently under way in Latin America. My absence, on the other hand, reaffirms the constitutional representation that should prevail in the country regarding the state functions and advocates the discussion of topics being carried out at the National Congress during the current special sessions, Baca said.

NICARAGUA'S ORTEGA, CUBA'S BRAVO STOP OVER

PY011220 Lima Television Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega made a technical stopover today in Lima on his way to Montevideo, where he will participate in the inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti as president of Uruguay. Ortega was met at the airport by Prime Minister Luis Percovich representing the Peruvian Government. He expressed firm support for the task the Contadora Group is seeking in solving the Nicaraguan problem. Ortega was accompanied by Flavio Bravo, president of the Cuban National Assembly, or congress. The plane arrived in Lima just before 1100, and departed just before noon.

[Begin report from airport] [Reporter] It is now 1100 and the plane carrying Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is just arriving. The Nicaraguan president is being met by Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Percovich.

[Ortega] We revealed a new initiative last night. The new initiative we are launching takes into account the serious situation in Latin America, which is threatened by the tension that has been created between Nicaragua and the United States, and especially the Central American region. We have hope for the meetings we are going to hold in Uruguay with Latin American heads of state and political leaders, including some of the Europeans concerned about this problem.

What are these initiatives? One deals with Nicaragua's decision, which has been made known on several occasions, that calls for the withdrawal of all foreign military advisers from Central America. This point is contained in the Contadora Document, which Nicaragua has fully accepted without any changes, and in order to advance toward that objective, that is, to have foreign military advisers leave the Central American region, and as we have observed that no one is taking any steps, Nicaragua has decided to take a unilateral step.

Another initiative that we have made known is Nicaragua's decision to take another step to end some of the excuses that were adopted by some Central American Governments in order not to participate in a 14 February meeting in Panama called for by the Contadora Group. This is related to the case of a person who had sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy and who then left the embassy and was arrested. Therefore, we have made the decision to resolve this problem by handing this gentleman over to the Contadora Group. Thus, we believe that this will end the excuses and we hope that the Contadora Group will now meet. [end report]

Flavio Bravo, the president of the Cuban National Assembly who is accompanying Ortega on his trip, highlighted the traditional links of friendship between Peru and Cuba. Here are his words:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] There is going to be a change of government in Uruguay [words indistinct] after many years of dictatorship and struggling by the country's leaders. What is Cuba's opinion of this?

[Bravo] We have a very favorable opinion regarding these changes in Latin America. It is a democratic opening that has many prospects, but it will also face many difficulties. First, what is most important and what we mostly desire for the Uruguayan people is that the democratic opening be consolidated.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the Chilean people must follow that path?

[Bravo] [chuckles] I believe that the time is ripe, as we say in Cuba. It is time for an end to the dictatorship in Chile. And, from deep in our hearts, we hope that there will be a democratic opening in Chile. [Words indistinct] we are indignant over the words of Mr Motley, Reagan's envoy, who said that the West had to thank the assassin Pinochet for having got rid of Allende's Socialist government. That is barbarous and it could have only been thought by one of the first cave men, by a most reactionary person. [end recording]

Ortega on Cuban Advisers

PA282108 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2033 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Lima, 28 Feb (REUTER) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega declared today that 50 [as received] of the Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua will return to Havana. Speaking at the Lima airport during a stopover on his way to Uruguay, Ortega did not give a precise figure for the number of advisers. Ortega also said that the return of the Cuban advisers is part of an initiative to resume the peace talks for Central America sponsored by the Contadora Group, which is formed by Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. These negotiations were interrupted as a result of a dispute over the right to asylum. Costa Rica has asserted that a Nicaraguan student refugee was forcefully taken out of its embassy in Managua, but Nicaragua maintains that the student was arrested after he voluntarily left the embassy. During a brief press conference, Ortega indicated that his government now offers to hand over the student to the Contadora Group but he did not give any more details. Ortega is traveling aboard a Cuban Ilyushin-62 aircraft on his way to Montevideo where he will attend the inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti as president.

BARRANTES RULES OUT MILITARY VETO OF ELECTIONS

PY281307 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] United Left Candidate Alfonso Barrantes last night discarded the possibility that the military will veto the elections results if he is elected president, since, he said, much has changed in the Armed Forces' mentality since 1968. He spoke yesterday afternoon at the national labor conference for social change which closes today with the assistance of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance and [words indistinct] presidential candidates. After noting that the United Left government platform seeks to strengthen the public sector so that it may become the backbone of socioeconomic development, Barrantes expressed his disagreement with (?international) terrorist methods. In this regard, Barrantes noted that he is not afraid of undertaking a dialogue with subversive groups despite the irrational position of subversive groups, but that everything shows that terrorists do not want to establish a dialogue. Answering labor representatives, he proposed the idea of establishing a sole national guard by uniting the three police forces and of establishing a central labor organization comprising the various labor factions.

TRAIN SERVICE TO CENTER OF COUNTRY RESTRICTED

PY011234 Lima Television Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Engineer Jorge Sarmiento, general manager of the National Railway Enterprise, has reported that the train service to the center of the country has not been interrupted, but it has been restricted due to the recent terrorist attacks against the railway lines that run to Huancayo.

SANGUINETTI DELIVERS PRE-INAUGURAL ADDRESS

PY010220 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Dr Julio Maria Sanguinetti tonight delivered his last speech before he takes over as president of the Republic. We stress that Dr Sanguinetti stated that the priority objective for the government will be to ensure the stability of the institutions. Speaking before the Colorado Party convention, to which he was forced to tender his resignation in accordance with the constitutional provisions. Sanguinetti recalled that when many were preaching national unity but practicing disunity, the Colorado Party practiced unity without insulting or offending anyone. Here is an excerpt of Sanguinetti's speech:

[Begin recording -- broadcast in progress] ...Since we were already seeking national unity. When many were preaching national unity but practicing disunity, we preached and practiced unity because we did not have to offend anyone. This party won the majority of votes without an insult, an offense, or a personal attack against anyone. The victory was based solely on the truth of its reasoning, the consistency of its conduct, and the resolute and serene spirit of its people. Moderation is a synonym for democracy because there is no democracy when there is not moderation. Democracy, like civilization, is the cultivation of tolerance and moderation. [shouts, applause] We are cultivating this youth within moderation because moderation does not mean weakness, but wisdom. That is civilization.

Tonight, I just wanted to give spontaneous, free reign to my faith, and my feelings, which I believe is shared by all Colorados and Batllists, in this speech which, for the next 5 years, will be my last speech as a Colorado and a Batllist. As of now, the constitutional provisions prevent me from practicing politics.

Within 5 years I will return to this dear arena of the convention to discuss, to disagree, to concur, and to continue dreaming with this country which we previously built, saw collapse, and are rebuilding again. [shouts, applause] [end recording]

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS ARRIVE FOR INAUGRATION

OAS, USSR Delegations

PY281455 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0038 GMT 28 Feb 85

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 27 Feb (EFE) -- Representatives of 73 countries, including nine presidents and heads of state, have begun to arrive in Uruguay to attend the inauguration of President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti. The official visitors list includes 15 foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers, 25 secretaries of state, 26 congress presidents and legislators, and 50 former presidents, heads of political parties, artists and writers. In addition, 58 international organizations have sent 314 diplomats and high-ranking officials.

Brazilian Joao Baena Soares, secretary general of the OAS, arrived in Uruguay today and stressed the historical significance of Uruguayan democracy in the continent.

A group of 19 Taiwanese personalities also arrived led by Vice President Lee Teng-hui. In addition to attending the ceremonies, the Taiwanese officials will conduct negotiations to purchase 8 million tons of grain from Uruguay.

The socialist countries are well represented. The USSR delegation is led by Bally Yazkuliyevich Yazkuliyev deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Bulgarian delegation is led by (Dimitar Lazarov), first deputy secretary of the State Council, while Poland has sent a group led by Deputy Premier [title as received] Eugeniusz Kulaga.

Heinrich Homann, deputy chairman of the GDR, also arrived at Carrasco International Airport today and was welcomed by Uruguayan Acting President Rafael Addiego Bruno.

Nicaragua's Ortega Welcomed

PA282138 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2029 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 28 Feb (EFE) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was acclaimed this afternoon upon his arrival in Montevideo, where on Friday he will attend the inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti as president of Uruguay. Hundreds of members of the leftist coalition Broad Front, of the Workers Interunion Plenum, the country's most important labor organization, and of the Students Association, gave Ortega a noisy welcome. Posters that read "Welcome Companero Ortega," "Long Live the Nicaraguan Struggle," and "Viva Sandino" were displayed at the airport and along the avenues of Montevideo through which Ortega's entourage passed.

Nicaragua's D'Escoto on Unity

PA281913 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Report by ANN correspondent Maria Isabel Pasos, in Montevideo -- recorded]

[Text] All of Latin America, and Nicaragua in particular, celebrate the Uruguayan people's victory as they recover their democracy, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto announced on arriving in this capital. The Nicaraguan foreign minister arrived at Carrasco Airport from Buenos Aires to attend the inauguration of Uruguayan President-elect Julio Maria Sanguinetti. D'Escoto was received by representatives of the country's three leading political forces: the Colorado and National Parties, and the Broad Front.

In statements made on his arrival, the Nicaraguan foreign minister stressed the importance of the presence of Latin America leaders in Montevideo since, according to him, this provides the chance to meet and discuss issues of great importance for Latin America. The topics which will be reviewed, according the Father D'Escoto, include the systematic violation of international law by the U.S. Government, the interventionist policy in Central America, the war imposed on Nicaragua, and Latin America's foreign debt. Commenting on U.S. aggression against Nicaragua, the foreign minister said that he hoped the Latin America countries would firmly express their solidarity with Nicaragua, thus defend their own interests. This aggression cannot be allowed to continue with impunity, because today it may be Nicaragua, but tomorrow it may be another government, the foreign minister said.

Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera, who also arrived with Father D'Escoto, reported on the meetings held with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. At their meetings, they discussed details of the meeting that President Raul Alfonsin and President Daniel Ortega will hold in this capital.

D'Escoto Sees Reagan as Threat

PY282125 Paris AFP in Spanish 1545 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Feb (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has said that the stalled negotiations of the Contadora Group and the hardening of the U.S. Administration represent true threats for the region and the world. Arriving in Montevideo to attend the inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti as president of Uruguay, the Nicaraguan diplomat said that the Reagan doctrine is an attempt to replace international law. This policy, D'Escoto said, is unarguably the main threat to peace and stability in the whole world. Lastly, D'Escoto stated that the return of institutional normality in Uruguay is of great significance to all Latin American nations that are struggling to recover or to strengthen their own democracies.

Guatemalan President Arrives

PY281408 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Guatemalan President Oscar Mejia arrived in Montevideo today to attend the presidential inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti on 1 March. Mejia, who arrived with representatives from other countries, was welcomed by acting President Rafael Addiego and acting Congress Chairman Jorge Battle.

Honduras' Paz Barnica Comments

PY282325 Paris AFP in Spanish 1917 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Feb (AFP) -- Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica today stated at a press conference that nearly 50,000 Central American refugees, including 27,000 Nicaraguans, are in Honduran territory. The Honduran foreign minister, who tomorrow will attend the inauguration of Uruguayan President-elect Julio Sanguinetti, refused to deny that among the Nicaraguans who sought asylum are members of the guerrilla groups that are fighting the Sandinist government. Paz Barnica warned, however, that there are also peasants and young people who are escaping the political violence which exists in their country. Paz Barnica stated that during the government of Anastacio Somoza, Honduras provided shelter in Honduras for 55,000 Nicaraguans, among them Sandinists who were fighting the dictatorial regime.

Paz Barnica also stated that currently there are in Honduras 750 U.S. military men who are training the Honduran Armed Forces and acting as a deterrent to what he regards as Nicaragua's excessive military power. Nicaragua presently has the capability of arming a 200,000-man Army which has prompted a military inbalance in the region, the Honduran foreign minister remarked.

Paz Barnica stated that a battle between democracy and totalitarianism is being fought in Central America. However, he then noted that the crisis affecting the region is caused by political oppression, social injustice, and economic backwardness.

Paz Barnica endorsed the role played by the Contadora Group to solve the conflicts now troubling Central America. He felt that despite statements to the contrary, the Contadora Group has recessed due to misunderstandings between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The Contadora process is not dead, Paz Barnica stated.

Paz Barnica also said that the U.S. and the Honduran Governments are currently conducting negotiations to review the mutual cooperation treaty under which a regional military training center financed by Washington was installed on Honduran territory.

In closing, Paz Barnica ruled out an eventual union between the Salvadoran and Honduran Armies to combat the Salvadoran guerrillas, although he admitted the existence of talks between the countries' military leadership.

Paz Barnica on Chile, Extradition

PY282325 Paris AFP in Spanish 1910 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Feb (AFP) -- Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica today warned in Montevideo that the relations between his country and Chile could enter into a very critical stage if the government led by Augusto Pinochet refuses to extradite Honduran General Jose Bueso Rosa, who is under arrest in Santiago.

Bueso Rosa served in Chile as the military attache to the Honduran Embassy, but the American FBI charged him with being involved in a plot against President Roberto Suazo's government. The Federal Court in Miami, Florida in the United States, requested his extradition. The Honduran former Army commander then sought asylum at the Paraguayan Embassy in Santiago, but was arrested in November 1984.

We are confident that the Chilean authorities will approve the extradition of General Bueso Rosa to the United States since otherwise relations between Honduras and Chile would enter a very critical period, Paz Barnica stated.

Costa Rican President Comments

PY281955 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] During a press conference held in the Assembly Hall of the Montevideo Municipal Building, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge stated that his country will not tolerate the launching of any violent actions against Nicaragua from Costa Rican soil by either Nicaraguan dissident groups or any other groups. He added that any reports stating that there are sectors that tolerate these violent actions be interpreted as part of a slander campaign against Costa Rican democracy.

Chilean Opposition Arrives

PY281405 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Former Chilean Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, former Santiago Archbishop, Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez, and Socialist International Secretary Luis Ayala arrived in Montevideo today to attend the inauguration of President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. This group will represent the Chilean opposition, while the Chilean Government will be represented by its ambassador in Montevideo.

OAS Official on Cuba's Return

PY282120 Paris AFP in Spanish 1933 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Feb (AFP) -- The eventual return of Cuba to the OAS was rejected today by the organization's secretary general, Joao Baena Soares, of Brazil. Baena Soares, who is in Montevideo to attend the inauguration of President-elect Sanguinetti, noted that the question of Cuba's readmission into the OAS is not on the agenda of the organization's Permanent Council. According to Baena Soares of the inter-American organization, so far none of the member countries have expressed the desire that Cuba again have representation in the continental forum.

On another question, the OAS secretary general said that he does not perceive any contradiction in the operations of the Contadora Group, the Cartagena Consensus, and the OAS. On the contrary, he urged all the region's countries to back the work being made by the Contadora Group, considering that the joint effort of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama contributes to peace and tranquillity in Central America.

Lastly, Baena Soares said that in his opinion the entry of Canada into the OAS would be beneficial for the organization, and pointed out that the presence of the United States poses no problem for the operation of the organization.

Angolan Minister Arrives

MB281722 Luanda ANGOP in English 1615 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Montevideo, 28 Feb (ANGOP) -- Lopo do Nascimento, Angolan minister of planning, arrived yesterday in Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, to attend the investitute ceremony of the new president of Uruguay, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, scheduled for March 1st. In his arrival at the international airport of Carrasco, Lopo do Nascimento was received by the Uruguayan foreign minister, Carlos Maeso. In this visit, Lopo do Nascimento is accompanied by Manuel Fragata, head of Latin America department in the Ministry of External Relations and by a responsible of party's [as received] department of [words indistinct] Bengui.

On Sunday, Lopo do Nascimento will leave for Buenos Aires, where he will hold talks with Argentine officials. He is expected to return home next Tuesday from Rio de Janeiro.

MILITARY COURT RELEASES 99 POLITICAL PRISONERS

PY281630 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0213 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Montevido, 27 Feb (EFE) -- The Uruguayan Supreme Military Court today ordered the release of 99 political prisoners, which means that 111 people (100 men and 11 women) have left the jails in the past 20 days.

Among those released are Spaniards Ruben Perez Gonzalez, Ruben Bello Garcia, Fredy Guzman Lopez Plantel, Jesus Amador Ponce Sanchez, and Juan Manuel Priegue Castro. Elsa Michelini Dellepiane, daughter of former Senator Zelmar Michelini who was murdered in Buenos Aires in 1976, also was released last night. Elsa Michelini was imprisoned in 1972 and she left the prison shortly before midnight, her brother Rafael told EFE.

The official information, which the Supreme Military Court released today, states that 96 of the pardons granted today are for high treason, and the other three for serious crimes. Thus, the court has waived the security provisions which prevented the release of these persons.

IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED IN TRADE RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL282122 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1843 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and the United States have held negotiations on matters related to bilateral and multilateral trade and signed a mutual agreement on steel trade, it was reported here today.

Representing their respective countries, Mexico's Secretary of Commerce Hector Hernandez Cervantez and U.S. trade representative William Brock met in Washington. They said they expect an improvement in bilateral relations in coming weeks.

The two officials had a long talk about the need for new multilateral trade negotiations and agreed to hold consultations more frequently in coming months on ways to promote expansion of world trade.

Hernandez Cervantes and Brock also signed a steel trade understanding. Its objective is to stabilize the access of Mexican steel products to the U.S. market.

At the meeting, Brock told his Mexican counterpart that recent statements on trade and investment matters made by President Miguel de la Madrid at a breakfast meeting with Mexican and U.S. gusinessmen had generated optimism and had been welcomed in Washington by the U.S. private sector.

TRADE PROGRAMS DISCUSSED WITH VENEZUELAN MINISTER

FL281401 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0112 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Venezuela's Minister of Development Hector Hurtado and Mexico's Under Secretary of Industrial Development Mauricio de Maria y Campos today met here to discuss the two countries' economic, industrial, and commercial affairs.

The officials discussed the need for Latin American countries to take concrete steps in developing cooperation projects in the field of manufactured goods and other areas which complement production and trade, especially at a time of marked protectionist measures by the developed countries.

They said business sectors in Venezuela and Mexico should establish a balanced trade program similar to the ones arranged among Argentine, Mexican, and Brazilian industries.

280 BILLION PESOS TO BE USED TO SUPPORT EXPORTS

FL282128 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2004 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Alfredo Phillips Olmedo, director general of the National Foreign Trade Bank (Bancomext), has stated that the Federal Government will channel 280 billion pesos, more than $272 million, to support foreign trade in 1985.

At a press conference, he stressed that the overvaluation of the dollar in relation to other major currencies is noticeably affecting Mexico's exchanges of goods, mainly with European countries and Japan.

Nevertheless, he said the domestic market will not be sacrificed to assure the fulfillment of export goals and to achieve a surplus for the economy's foreign trade sector.

Phillips said that in the economic reordering process, the application of compensatory taxes unfavorable to Mexican exports was unfair. He added that incentives for Mexican manufactured goods are identical to those traditionally granted in the industrialized countries.

He said the support for foreign trade is separate from the 618 billion pesos, more than $809 million, earmarked for restructuring the debt of the country's industries.

The banker said there would be a strengthening of the credit subprogram to support the pre-export [preexportacion] of primary agricultural and mineral products by using resources from the Bancomext Payment and Risk Coverage Mechanism, complemented by lines of credit from foreign banks.

The Bancomext director specified that the resources to support foreign trade consist of foreign credits from the World Bank, the International Development Bank, the Export-Import Bank, and resources from the international banking sector, with preferential interest rates and long-term repayment arrangements.

CINEMATOGRAPHY AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH POLAND

FL270230 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Poland signed a cinematography cooperation agreement this morning, which will be in effect until 1987, according to the Radio, Television, and Film Directorate (RTC) of Mexico. RTC Director Jesus Hernandez Torres said this agreement on films will bring the two countries closer together and will be culturally beneficial.

BELIZE

ESQUIVEL RETURNS FROM TRIP TO MEXICO, JAMAICA

FL281704 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Manuel Esquivel returned to Belize today after a 1-week working visit to Mexico and Jamaica. Prime Minister Esquivel had led a Belize delegation to Mexico, where he was scheduled to meet the President Mr Miguel de la Madrid. From Mexico, the prime minister traveled to Jamaica. There he attended the 2-day Caribbean heads of government meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica. During the prime minister's absence, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs Mr Curl Thompson acted as prime minister.

COSTA RICA

GUTIERREZ ON URBINA LARA CASE, ORTEGA PROPOSALS

PA010333 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Nicaragua will announce in Montevideo the method by which Urbina Lara will be released. While in Montevideo, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra will arrange for the release of Nicaraguan asylum seeker Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, according to a verbal statement made to Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez by the Nicaraguan charge d'affairs in Costa Rica.

However, the Costa Rican foreign minister said that there has been no official report as to how Urbina Lara will be turned over. Presumably the Nicaraguan Government will tell the Contadora Group foreign ministers how it will comply with the commitment publicly undertaken by the Sandinist government leader, Gutierrez remarked.

Urbina Lara's release would be tantamount to recognizing the right of asylum. Referring to statements by Sandinist government officials that Urbina will be turned over even though Nicaragua's position is correct, Gutierrez said that as long as the asylum beneficiary is turned over to Costa Rica, this action is enough.

The mere fact of Urbina's release would mean the recognition of the importance of the right of asylum and this is the objective of the Costa Rican Government, the official added. That is why, he noted, the statements or characterizations used in releasing Urbina are unimportant.

What is important to Costa Rica is Urbina Lara's release, because we have obtained respect for the right of asylum, Gutierrez remarked. He recalled that President Monge told representatives of the Nicaraguan Government that they could do this under protest or using any expression whatsoever, but as long as they released Urbina Lara that would be enough for Costa Rica. Monge also announced in Montevideo that as soon as Urbina Lara is released, the Foreign Affairs Ministry will notify the Contadora Group foreign ministers that Costa Rica is willing to attend the Contadora Group meetings.

Gutierrez sees this matter as solving a problem. I do not like to refer to these matters as victories or defeats but as solutions to a problem, because I cannot consider foreign policy a matter of who won or lost, Gutierrez said. We are simply on the verge of overcoming an obstacle, and following this the efforts of the Contadora Group, a process Costa Rica has supported, can continue.

Gutierrez said that the right of asylum is one of Latin America's greatest contributions to what is described as humanitarian international law. For this reason, the respect given in this case helps this institution remain effective and fully adhered to by all Latin American nations.

Costa Rica will rejoin the Contadora process as soon as Urbina Lara is released. Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that Costa Rica will rejoin the efforts of the Contadora Group as soon as the conflict with Nicaragua over Urbina Lara is resolved. The foreign minister appeared at the Legislative Assembly, where he talked for almost 2 hours with members of the Committee on Interparliamentary and Foreign Relations. He added that neither he nor the president of the Republic is prepared to go into history as the first to break a tradition that typifies Costa Rica -- the right of asylum.

Foreign Minister Gutierrez did not get to answer all question posed by the deputies as fully as they requested. Therefore, the possibility of inviting him back in the not-too-distant future will be considered.

The Contadora Document must guarantee respect by all signatories. Costa Rica will sign the Contadora Document if there is a guarantee that all countries involved will be as respectful as our country, and Nicaragua will be asked to respect international law. We have utmost respect for the Contadora Group, he said, because it enjoys not only the support of the OAS but of the United States, the Soviet Union, Asia, Africa, and all Latin American countries as well as world-renowned personalities such as Pope John Paul II.

Gutierrez explained to the deputies that there are three types of conflicts in the area: international problems, such as in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua; conflicts among countries, of which the most outstanding is the situation involving El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua; and the conflict between Cuba, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The measures announced by Nicaragua seek a change from the United States. In the opinion of Foreign Minister Gutierrez, the measures announced by the Nicaraguan Government seek to keep the U.S. Congress from authorizing funds for the anti-Sandinists. The head of Costa Rican foreign policy said that he holds this opinion because this view...[rephrases] because the announcement of the release of asylum seeker Urbina Lara is not an isolated event. It has occured within the context of a declaration that sets forth all principles of Nicaragua's foreign policy: the annoucement of a reduction in the number of Cuban advisers, the freeze on weapons purchases, and an invitation to a group of U.S. congressmen to learn about that country's armament.

Nicaragua's announcement is a positive contribution to regional peace. Although the announcement by the Sandinist government contains differences from the proposals made by the U.S. Government, it makes a positive contribution to regional peace.

However, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that the declaration refers to the signing of the Contadora Document without any modifications. This means the talks will be controversial because Nicaragua will insist on signing the 7 September document without changes, whereas Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala have commented on errors and omissions in the document that do not make it operational in many ways.

The possibility remains of holding discussions and negotiations through the Contadora Group. Even though Nicaragua insists on signing the document of 7 September, with which four Central American countries do not agree, Foreign Minister Gutierrez feels that the resumption of the Contadora Group's meetings offers the possibility of holding discussions and negotiations. In this sense, Gutierrez considers the action announced by the Sandinist government as positive. He added that it demonstrates a willingness to achieve detente, and said that even though this is not all that is required to achieve detente, a step forward has been taken through these efforts.

LEGISLATORS URGE DIALOGUE WITH MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS

FL281638 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1517 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Costa Rican legislators are endorsing a meeting between Mexican and Costa Rican parliamentary representatives to improve bilateral relations.

Costa Rican deputy from the governing National Liberation Party Javier Bolanos said that meetings have been planned in case of a disagreement between the two governments to seek lines of communication and bilateral agreements through the parliamentary route.

The deputy said that Costa Rica's attitude toward the Contadora Group's efforts has been highly criticized in Mexico and reflected in its press, with most articles taking a hard line toward President Luis Alberto Monge's administration.

Bolanos said that influential Mexican press sources have emphasized that Costa Rica is arming itself for a war with Nicaragua, and they warn that a Costa Rican boycott could provoke a war in Central America.

In another part of his statement, Bolanos said the Urbina Lara case, the reason for the strong differences with Nicaragua, could be resolved through Mexico's mediation, according to his conversations with Mexican legislators.

EL SALVADOR

BLANDON, UNGO, DUARTE ON TALKS WITH GUERRILLAS

PA282216 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 28 Feb 85 pp, 2, 31

[Text] In Buenos Aires, Argentina, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Tenorio stated yesterday that the third round of talks between the government of Jose Napoleon Duarte and the guerrillas will resume after the 31 March elections. The foreign minister was en route to Montevideo, Uruguay to attend the inauguration of Julio Maria Sanguinetti on Friday. Tenorio met Argentine and foreign newsmen at the Buenos Aires airport.

Moreover, speaking to Uruguayan and foreign newsmen yesterday in Montevideo, Guillermo Ungo urged the Salvadoran Government to resume the talks in a third meeting, and stressed that "we want the meeting to be for real and not for show."

However, General Adolfo Onecifero Blandon, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, denied that the Armed Forces were exerting pressure against holding the meeting.

"We are professionals trained in warfare, but we realize that reason must prevail; so we have never exerted pressure against the talks," Blandon stated. "We do not think that the talks should be an instrument; that is, we oppose talks for tactical reasons, talks that are rigged, planned for the best effect, and used as a propaganda ploy to create a false image abroad. We have agreed to the talks, but they must be truly sincere and favor the majority of the long-suffering Salvadoran peole, who are tired of the war imposed on us from abroad," stressed General Blandon.

Meanwhile, President Jose Napoleon Duarte has restated his support for the talks with the guerrillas, but without preset conditions; as the government has officially stated, the talks must be serious, far-reaching, and sincere, and not part of a political strategy designed for propaganda purposes and to create a certain image abroad.

GUERRILLA-HELD AREAS HOLD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PA010210 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0510 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The clandestine radio station Radio Farabundo Marti today asserted that the Salvadoran guerrilla groups had held municipal elections between 17 and 21 February in six towns in northern Chalatenango Department.

Meanwhile, the Army reported the recent discovery of 47 guerrillas members' corpses in 3 clandestine cemeteries.

The rebel radio station broadcast an interview with Evaristo Lopez, president of the subregional board of the people's power in Chalatenango, who reported about the elections held in towns under rebel control. This is the second time the rebels have held elections to elect local authorities in several areas of Chalatenango Department.

Lopez asserted that the townspeople of San Antonio Los Ranchos, San Jose Cancasque, San Antonio de la Cruz, San Jose Las Flores, Dulce Numbre de Jesus, and Las Vueltas, "voted freely to elect their popular representatives."

According to the president of the subregional board of the people's power in Chalatenango, "the people living in the towns where the municipal elections were held cast their ballots to elect their own candidates." Evaristo Lopez did not specify how the elections were held or who was elected.

Through Radio Farabundo Marti, Lopez said that the projects to be carried out by the people's government in northern Chalatenango include "the construction of housing units, schools, roads, suspension bridges, and hospitals."

The Chalatenango communities in which, according to the guerrilla groups, municipal elections were held, have an average of 4,000 residents and are located approximately 82 km north of San Salvador.

In addition, clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti reported that the "Army had bombed several areas in northern Cabanas and Cuscatlan Departments, where its troops are carrying their antiguerrilla operations which involve the burning of land."

According to the guerrilla source, 3 peasants were killed and 26 were captured by the Army" [quotation mark as received] during the military actions carried out in northern Cabanas and Cuscatlan during the past few days.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, reported today that units of the Ramon Belloso Specialized Battalion found 10 half-buried corpses of guerrilla members near Suchitoto, 44 km northeast of the capital. Another clandestine guerrilla cemetery was found yesterday in the town of Nueva Concepcion in the northeast part of the country; according to Coprefa, the corpses of 15 guerrillas were found partially dressed in uniforms. Other military sources revealed that the corpses of 22 guerrilla members were found last week, this time near the town of Sensuntepeque in central Cabanas Department.

TRAFFIC BAN PARTIALLY SUSPENDED 1 MARCH

PA010307 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Attention, close attention, Salvadoran people. This is to announce that the traffic paralyzation decreed by the FMLN since 20 February has been suspended as of Thursday, 28 February. Passenger and privately owned vehicles, as well as those belonging to small- and medium-sized businessmen can travel as of Friday.

Our units, however, will continue to sabotage national and foreign vehicles carrying fuel, coffee, cotton, and sugarcane, and vehicles belonging to large oligarchic enterprises. We hereby require the population to be very careful on the highways because clashes may occur. In addition, we remind all civilians not to carry military personnel in their vehicles and to refrain from traveling between 2000 and 0330 in the evening. These two measures are intended to prevent civilian victims during ambushes, since our members have been instructed to open fire against all troop-carrying vehicles, whether civilian or military.

Furthermore, it is extremely difficult to tell a privatly owned vehicle from a military one at night. Therefore, no one will be allowed to travel during the hours mentioned. Any and all vehicles will be fired upon during the night because the puppet Army moves primarily at night.

GUATEMALA

ARMY ENDS GUERRILLA HIGHWAY HARASSMENT

PA281307 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Feb 85 p 2

[By Carlos Absalon Galvez]

[Text] After several clashes, the national Army has broken up the rebel columns which were active for several days on the highway leading from Poptum to Santa Elena, according to reports from the local authorities.

It was reported that in recent months, the rebel groups burned vehicles and occupied several communities, particularly the villages of Dolores and Santa Ana. In special operations, the Army neutralized these groups, while the latter were forced to flee inot the mountains of the region. The rebal movement forced many peasants near Yaltutu to leave their homes to seek refuge in safer places. The journey to Flores is now no longer a nightmare for travelers.

The Armed Forces have positioned troops in the urban sector of Dolores to carry out counterinsurgency activities and in other areas considered by the authorities as zones of conflict, in view of constant incursions by rebels.

Police Conduct Searches in South

PA280451 Guatemala Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] During the past 48 hours the Army and police have carried out intensive search and surveillance operations along the southern coast from Suchitepequez to Retalhuleu Departments, stopping buses, trailers, pickup trucks, vans, and other vehicles.

The operations covered several points on the highway to the Pacific. Our reporters saw military patrols carefully searching all sorts of vehicles during a quick trip through the area. Personnel engaged in the operations who were interviewed by us said that they were looking for subversives who have attacked and committed other crimes against businesses and farms on the southern coast.

Operations were also intensive in the area of Tiquisate. The military units were supported by special vehicles to repel possible attacks by subversives or criminals. It was indicated that the operations would continue all week, particularly along the highway to the south in the jurisdiction of Cocales and other places in Suchitepequez Department.

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES DENY FOREIGN POLICY INTERFERENCE

PA281633 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Feb 85 p 3

[Communique released by the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate on 26 February in Tegucigalpa]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate wishes to explain the following with regard to baseless speculations recently published in the foreign press and reproduced in the national media accusing the Honduran Armed Forces, and specifically their commander in chief, of allegedly interfering in Honduran foreign policy:

1. Under the Constitution, the president of the Republic is responsible for conducting the state's international policy and relations.

2. The Armed Forces is a national institution which does not have a foreign policy different from that of the Honduran state and whose functions have been defined in the Constitution. Therefore, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces does not sponsor a secret diplomacy in relations with foreign governments or in other international situations.

3. On 31 March of last year the high military command ended the abnormal situation marked by undue interference in Honduran foreign policy by the previous commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

4. The Honduran Armed Forces reiterate its firm and irrevocable decision to fulfill its institutional duties and obligations within the limits established by the national Constitution.

Tegucidalpa, 26 February 1985

Public Relations Directorate, Honduran Armed Forces

PNH DOCUMENT ATTACKS 'UNPATRIOTIC' SUAZO 'CLIQUE'

PA281706 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Document issued by 30 deputies of the National Party of Honduras at the National Assembly in Tegucigalpa on 26 February]

[Text] Honduran people: The incidents in Honduras which are a result of the infamous, unpatriotic behavior of a small group of unscrupulous individuals who occupy top positions in the bureaucracy of the Suazo Cordova administration are a serious threat to our fatherland. If these incidents are not stopped, they may lead to fratricidal violence similar to that in certain brother countries of the isthmus or in the dissolution of our nationality through the intervention of foreign forces, which could lead us to the outrageous tragedy of a Lebanon or Vietnam.

The country's democratic sectors which make up the various political organizations, as well as the labor and peasant sectors and their organizations, the business groups, the professional and youth groups, and the Armed Forces, in compliance with Article 272 of the Constitution, must form a single front to stop this ignominy and to end the vandalic actions of the people's enemies who make up the Suazo Cordova clique. If we want to preserve our homeland as a free, independent, and sovereign state, and if we want to maintain our dear Honduras as a beautiful place where we can enjoy life in a climate of peace, well-being, and respect for the country's sovereignty and for the republican and democratic institutions which the people have obtained, the representatives of the National Party of Honduras [PNH] at the congress of the Republic declare:

1. We confirm our sacred commitment to the fatherland and that our main duty is to firmly defend the Constitution of the Republic. We will never permit it to be violated or distorted to the detriment of the Honduran people.

2. The PNH is willing to join in a common effort with all democratic forces of the congress to protect the people's democratization process from the open and constant attacks carried out by the Suazo Cordova group inside and outside the sacred legislative chamber.

3. In view of this, the PNH deputies reaffirm their nationalist spirit and promise to maintain the indestructible unity of the PNH faction, not to withdraw from their positions until their alternates are legitimately incorporated into the Assembly, and not to commit their votes under any circumstances unless by previous consultation with the faction and in line with the goals and objectives of the PNH and the Republic.

We must keep in mind Article 3 of the Constitution, which mentions the people's inalienable right to firmly reject illegitimate acts of governments trying to violate the country's sovereignty and usurp constitutional power. The criminal conduct of those officials who act this way makes them guilty of treason and their actions are declared null by the law.

In view of this, we vote to censure the antidemocratic actions that violate the Constitution and the other laws carried out by the executive and judicial branches which have led this country to a state of economic and social deterioration that leans toward anarchy.

NICARAGUA

TUNNERMAN DISCUSSES U.S. REACTION TO INITIATIVES

PA281758 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Today Nicaragua will present to the leaders of the two houses of the U.S. Congress our government's invitation to send a bipartisan commission from the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to our country to become familiar with our military development, Nicaraguan Ambassador in Washington Dr Carlos Tunnerman has announced. According to the ambassador, our military development is defensive and in no way offensive. In exclusive statements for this newscast, Tunnerman asserted that Nicaragua's initiative, announced by President Ortega, has been well recieved by several congressmen, who have described it as very positive. Here are our ambassador's statements from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Tunnerman] We contacted several congressmen this afternoon. Companero Victor Hugo Tinoco, our deputy foreign minister, is here and we have accompanied him to several meetings with congressmen, whom we have notified of this invitation. The official invitation will be extended through House of Representatives Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, and through Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole.

Nicaragua's initiative announced by our President Dommander Ortega, to invite a bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation to visit Nicaragua and confirm that our Army is defensive, not offensive, and poses no threat to the security of the neighboring countries, but is of an absolutely defensive nature, has been well received. The idea is regarded as positive; the taking of this step is regarded as a positive Nicaraguan initiative because there has been a lot of manipulation here with the charge that Nicaragua is organizing an excessively large Army, disproportionate to our country's size and to the size of the other Central American armies. So, the best way to counter these charges, which have sometimes been used here by the administration, that is, by the U.S. Government, to justify its request for continued aid for the counterrevolution by claiming that Nicaragua is excessively armed, well, the best way to counter this is through the initiative taken by the Nicaraguan Government to invite a bipartisan delegation that includes representatives of both the Democratic and Republican Parties, the Senate and the House of Representatives, to visit Nicaragua. Taking advantage of all the facilities that the government can provide, such as access to the military facilities, to the training schools, to the bases, and in short to all our military facilities, would enable them to confirm on the spot that our Army is exclusively for the defense of our country in light of the aggression we are suffering and that our Army does not have the capacity to become a danger to other Central American countries.

This initiative has been described as positive. As the Nicaraguan Government's ambassador in Washington, I hope that the invitation will be accepted and that a commission will be appointed and will travel to Nicaragua to fulfill the purpose of the invitation.

[Reporter] Dr Tunnerman, President Ortega announced tonight the withdrawal of 100 military advisers and a freeze on the acquisition of new weapons as a contribution to the search for a negotated solution to the Central American crisis. What reaction has this announcement elicited in Washington?

[Tunnerman] That announcement has not yet been published here, because it was just made in Managua. It will probably be published in tomorrow morning's papers. It will certainly not be until tomorrow that that issue will be commented upon. However, when we asked several persons connected with the Congress how a measure of this kind would be viewed, we found that this too was viewed as a very positive measure on the part of Nicaragua because it is a unilateral contribution to Central American peace and the bolstering of Contadora, at a time when Contadora is going through a crisis. Nicaragua's unilateral offer in the form of these announcements by President Ortega will surely help reactivate the Contadora process, which is so important for peace in Central America. I am sure that Nicaragua's offers will create a magnificent impression in the U.S. Congress. Although they were not made exclusively for this purpose, they are sure to have this result. They are a contribution to peace in Central America through Contadora. With these proposals Nicaragua is again reiterating its political determination to achieve peace through negotiation and dialogue. Once again Nicaragua is taking the initiative. Once again Nicaragua is at the vanguard of efforts on behalf of peace in Central America, in this case providing truly important support to the reactivation of Contadora. [end recording]

GODOY SAYS FSLN VIOLATING REVOLUTION'S PRINCIPLES

PA271813 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Feb 85 pp 1, 6

[Excerpts] Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party [PLI] has stated in Matagalpa that the violations of the three basic principles of the revolution -- a mixed economy, political pluralism, and nonalignment -- committed by the party in power surpassed the limits of the widespread distrust of a government that became abusive and inept and created a violence that can only be stopped through true national unity.

"After 5 long years we now see how the government is imitating and copying the forms and behaviors of other governments. We have witnessed how the offices of other parties have been stoned and mocked and how conflicts have emerged within families. We have felt the screw increasingly tighten," he said.

"Now," he stressed, "No one believes in anything." This is the situation that exists in Nicaragua: We doubt everything and everyone. Distrust has reached its highest levels "and therefore we see that after 5 years of the revolution the paths of man and war are beginning to come together."

Now, he warned, we see that it is very necessary to again have national unity. We must rescue the unity that united the Nicaraguan people in the war against Somoza. "Dear friends, there is no other path," Godoy said with emotion, "than for the political parties and the country's sectors to think of a great national dialogue."

The PLI has called for this national dialogue. We have looked for and found well-intentioned political leaders to discover this lost path and "dispite our great differences" we have found similarities.

"It is no easy task," he emphasized. The FSLN is willing to refuse to attend a national dialogue. They prefer war. For this reason, he insisted, and so that we can try to become what we want to be, we must put aside party interests and the distrust among those who trust the Nicaraguan people. Those who want power reject the dialogue. They prefer to use the old Roman saying: "Divide and you shall conquer."

ARDE'S DAVILA TERMS ORTEGA PROPOSALS 'COSMETIC'

PA282016 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1939 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] San Jose, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- President Daniel Ortega's peace proposal "does not resolve the basic problem" in Nicaragua, Jose Davila, political official of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), has stated here.

Meanwhile, Brooklyn Rivera, general coordinator of the Nicaraguan Indian organization Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Sandinist Unity [Misurasata], has indicated that the "peace offensive" launched by Ortega Saavedra "reflects the difficulties faced by the Sandinist government both at home and abroad."

In a speech delivered yesterday in Managua, Ortega announced his willingness to return to Cuba 100 Cuban military advisers and freeze the acquisition of war materiel to contribute to peace in Central America.

"Nicaragua's problem stems from a lack of freedoms, the economic situation, and the civil war," ARDE's Davila said. ARDE is an armed organization fighting the Sandinist government under the leadership of Eden Pastora Gomez (Commander Cero) in southern Nicaragua. Davila told ACAN-EFE that unless the government in Managua engages in a dialogue with the Nicaraguan people themselves to discuss their problems, any peace proposal is "of a cosmetic nature, for export purposes."

"There cannot be peace with other countries as long as internal peace does not exist, as long as the problems that led Nicaraguans to rise up in arms are not solved," the ARDE leader said.

Davila reiterated ARDE's willingness to establish a dialogue with the Sandinist government, but with "full freedom of the press, without the emergency law, with foreign observers, and to discuss basic issues that affect Nicaraguans, not only those that seem to affect them."

Meanwhile Rivera, noting the problems Daniel Ortega's government faces, cited the "impasse" the Contadora Group is facing, the suspended Manzanillo dialogue with the United States, and the suspension of the talks with Misurasata to solve the Indians' problems on the Atlantic coast.

"This is a very disadvantageous situation in which to govern," the Indian leader said. Last year he held two meetings with Nicaraguan Government representatives to try to solve the problems of the Indians communities in Nicaragua. This is why, he added, the Sandinist regime "tries to demonstrate" an interest in peace negotiations, to try to interest some sectors of the internal opposition and impress its friends abroad."

Rivera described the hostilities in Central America as "very serious" for the Sandinists, "especially President Ronald Reagan's efforts seeking aid for the Nicaraguan opposition."

MISURA SAYS TOWNS 'RACIAL CONCENTRATION CAMPS'

PA271308 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0144 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas [Misura] anti-Sandinist Indian organization has charged that in several towns on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast Miskitos "work as slaves in a systematic extermination program."

The rebel organization, which groups the Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, and the black Creoles, circulated a communique in Tegucigalpa with charges made by its Council of Elders and Political Committee.

Misura indicated that the communities of Tasba Pri, Bismona, Karata, Halover and Wawa "are in fact racial concentration camps where military control over their inhabitants is total, cruel, and even deadly."

"The people are forced to fish from sunrise to sunset," the communique states, "and when the fishermem return, the Sandinist soldiers keep part of the fish and the Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries (Inpesca) takes the rest."

The communique added that "in these camps no one owns anything and no one can go beyond 100 meters outside the perimeter of the communities. After 1800, no one goes out or receives anyone at home."

It noted that the houses are actually tents because the first thing the Sandinist soldiers did upon arriving in the communities was "to set fire to the huts."

Misura recounted that in January of 1982 the Sandinist soldiers set fire to 396 huts in the Bismona community and the 1,800 inhabitants were transferred to the Columbus concentration camp. According to the organization, the Columbus concentration camp is located 70 km northwest of Puerto Cabezas over the highway joining the mining communities of Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza in Zelaya Department.

The rebel Indian group pointed out that 50 persons were condemned to the "free zone" prison, but 10 of them disappeared while the remainder were favored by the amnesty decree in December 1983.

In addition, of the 1,750 Miskitos left in Columbus, 50 children died of malnutrition, 33 elderly people died of "grief," and 12 youths died of common diseases. They never received medical attention.

Misura affirmed that to remedy the situation the Sandinist regime "decided to transfer the Columbus Miskitos back to Bismona but many of those who returned decided to go to Honduras to live as refugees."

According to Misura, in view of this situation the Sandinist leadership decided "to round up a group of clergymen from the Moravian Church to visit the refugee camps in Honduras and convince the people there to return to Nicaragua."

Misura pointed out that "the refugees were promised better wages, some guarantees, and new work opportunities; however, no one returned and the flow of refugees to Honduras increased."

It was then that the Sandinists decided to militarize the Indian communities, the Misura communique states.

SWEDISH TELEVISION PROGRAM INTERVIEWS CASTRO

PA281353 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] The Swedish television program "Magazine" carried an interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro on the world economy, culture, freedom of the press in Cuba, relations with the United States, and the presence of Cuban internationalists in Angola.

During the 20-minute interview in Havana by Swedish journalist Peter (Podgetson), Castro said that the explosive economic situation in Latin America explains the current wave of democratic openings that continent is experiencing. In the continent, military dictatorships have failed because they have been unable to solve the serious national economic problems.

Castro asserted that a moratorium of between 15 and 20 years is necessary for the so-called Third World countries to overcome their economic crises. He also pointed out that the only possible solution to the debt problem lies with the creditor countries. These governments must assume the debt that the Third World countries owe to private banks. At the end of the program, the journalist mentioned that the Swedish Government headed by Prime Minister Olof Palme has invited Castro to visit Sweden.

'OUR AMERICA' SCORES REAGAN'S COMMENTS ON BOLIVAR

PA281410 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 26 Feb 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] In one of his latest speeches, U.S. President Ronald Reagan compared the actions of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with the heroic feats led by liberator Simon Bolivar during the last century. The statements, which drew many protests in Latin American countries, proved once more Reagan's ignorance of the history of these people.

Washington is using the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary bands, which have murdered many civilians, to overthrow Nicaragua's legitimate government, which is supported by the vast majority of its people. In comparing Bolivar's struggle for independence with the elections of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, Ronald Reagan overlooked a fundamental fact, that is, the Latin American founding father not only struggled against the Spanish but faced the hostility of several U.S. Administrations that hid their colonialist objectives behind an alleged neutrality in the war that was being waged.

Bolivar's position was so opposed to the United States' interests in Latin America that many historians consider him a forerunner of anti-imperialism. Bolivar's Latin Americanist thinking reached its apex at the 1826 Congress of Panama. The liberator called this meeting in order to formulate a policy of Latin American unity. It was Bolivar's expressed desire that the congress be attended exclusively by representatives of those nations.

His objective failed because of U.S. maneuvers. Bolivar warned those who requested the presence of U.S. delegates at the congress: They are inviting the United States to give an appearance of selflessness and to encourage the guests to attend the banquet; and after we have gathered for the feast the [word indistinct] will take place. Thereupon, the lion will enter and eat the guests.

[Words indistinct] U.S. ships loaded with weapons and other logistical material for the Spanish Army.

The liberator wrote to a U.S. official: The minute a ship supplies military materiel to our enemies to wage war on us it violates neutrality and passes from that status to the status of a belligerent.

Bolivar's strong Latin Americanist calling made him an obstacle to the U.S. Government's plans. Thus, a huge propaganda campaign was carried out against the liberator. One of his trusted men wrote to him: All the public papers circulating throughout the United States besmirch your actions and reputation as well as those of Colombia.

Bourgeois historians have tried to present the victor of [the Battle of] Boyaca as an unconditional admirer of the U.S. way of life. The papers he left when he died, his letters, and his thoughts in general belie such criteria.

According to Bolivar, our America should have laws reflecting concrete social realities, that is, attuned to what he called our small human race. For this reason, he rejected the legal codes existing in the United States during the 1819 Congress of Angostura.

Bolivar foresaw the role Washington was to play against the Latin American nations. Based on this convinction, he said: The United States seems to be destined by providence to spread misery in America in the name of freedom.

The North American way of life also caught the attention of the liberator, who said about it: I loathe that scum to such an extent that I would not like it to be said that a Latin American does anything in their manner. Years later, he asserted: All danger lies in the United States.

Bolivar's work and thoughts are an immortal example of struggle for Latin America's redemption. Without doubt, President Ronald Reagan's ignorance made him make the mistake of comparing the actions of his allies -- the Somozist hangmen, the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries -- with the heroic Bolivarian feat.

COMMENTARY VIEWS JAMAICA'S NEW IMF AGREEMENT

FL281858 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Little more than a month after the demonstrations in Jamaica against price increases, the government of Prime Minister Edward Seaga is trying to sign a new disadvantageous agreement that inevitably will lead the island to serious problems. Seaga has said he will discuss another agreement in April with the IMF, when the present standby agreement expires. Under the terms of the present agreement, he was forced to apply more severe internal economic adjustments that impoverished the inhabitants.

Jamaica's foreign debt is nearly $4 billion for a population of 2 million, its unemployment is estimated at 40 percent, and its exports of bauxite and its income from tourism have dropped. The social situation is a calamity. The frequent public demonstrations against Seaga's policies indicate that a social unheaval could take place, with the unemployed and persons without money to buy food or health care playing a main role.

It is improbable that by the month of April, the target date for a new agreement with the IMF, Jamaica can present its creditor with an optimistic view, in accordance with known demands. Because of very reduced earnings in foreign currencies, the size of the recession, and the growth of the opposition, the prime minister of Jamaica will surely have to change his course.

It is clear that the situation of the island is the result of the failure of the application of neoliberal capitalistic economic prescriptions; it shows that Seaga's total economic surrender to the United States has not served to palliate the local crisis. The future is uncertain for the citizens of Jamaica, and many persons have taken to the use and trafficking of drugs. Others wander the streets, victims of the poor administration by a head of state who is more concerned about maintaining good relations with Washington than with his fellow citizens.

HAVANA ATTACKS NICARAGUAN 'TRAITORS, SCUM'

PA251644 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 85

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Turncoats and enemies of their peoples always find common elements to lead them down the path of treason. This thesis was revalidated by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary leader Eden Pastora during his recent visit to Miami, where he met with notorious enemies of the Cuban revolution. During his stay Pastora collected funds for the counterrevolutionary groups he commands and obtained $50,000 from three radio stations that are the outlets for some of the most reactionary sectors of Miami's Cuban community. Once again Pastora asked for contributions for his so-called fight against communism and countered contributors' reservations by making it clear that the funds will not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages or to finance trips or luxuries. Media sources stressed that Pastora's clarification was a fitting one when one takes into account the acts of banditry and crimes committed by Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups against peasant families.

In Miami, Pastora also discussed the drafting of a so-called declaration of principles, which in the language of Nicaraguan traitors really amounts to an ultimatum for the establishment in the country of a government to protect the interests of U.S. transnationals. Washington has promoted the document through Arturo Cruz, the so-called serious representative of the Somozist counterrevolution. Several months ago, this man prided himself on being the genuine representative of Nicaragua's private enterprise sector. Today, he and his former Somozist guardsmen do not hesitate to lead mercenaries from around the world, traitors, and other scum of society in a crusade against the Sandinist people's revolution.

In recent statements prompted by Washington, Arturo Cruz said that the declaration will be the last offer made to the Nicaraguan Government and threatened to take reprisals against them if the demands it contains go unheeded. Among those who signed the so-called declaration of principles are Adolfo Calero, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, Alfonso Robelo, leader of a faction of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Wycliffe Diego, representative of the Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas [Misura], Eden Pastora, and other mercenary group leaders.

From self-proclaimed delegates of the economic elite to sergeants and soldiers in Somoza's former National Guard, some of whom have dozens of murders on their records: together they will combat the Nicaraguan people and revolution.

Ironically, these groups are offering assurances of well-being and development to Nicaragua, when in actuality they are nothing but instruments that the U.S. Government uses in its attempt to crush the Sandinist revolution, preserve its hegemony in Central America, and prolong exploitation and poverty in the area countries.

Nothing good can be expected from alliances such as this. Murderers, torturers, thieves, and traitors have come together in the sordid underworld of the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, under the protective wing of the United States: the same power that for almost half a century served to cover Somoza's crimes, today prolongs Pinochet's stay in Chile, and is responsible for the more than 100,000 murders that have been committed in Guatemala over the past 30 years.

CELAM SECRETARY GENERAL HONORED AT NUNCIATURE

FL010038 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Msgr Dario Castrillon Ollos, secretary general of the Latin American Bishops Conference, CELAM, has visited our country at the invitation of the Cuban Bishops Conference. During his stay in Cuba, he participated in religious services in churches in the cities of Santa Clara, Matanzas, Camaguey, Holguin, and Pinar del Rio. He also made a private visit to the Santuario del Cobre in Santiago de Cuba.

The CELAM secretary general was honored yesterday at the nunciature in Havana. Before departing for Panama, the Colombian bishop toured Havana's historical district.

FRENCH LABOR LEADER KRASUKI PRAISES CTC

FL010216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Today at a press conference at the headquarters of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, Henri Krasuki, memer of the Politburo of the French Communist Party said: We have seen in Cuba an active, well-organized trade union organization that is strongly linked to the masses. Krasuki, who is also secretary general of the French General Confederation of Workers said he personally knew Lazaro Pena, whom he called an important figure in the world trade union movement.

MEXICO'S SEPULVEDA MEETS WITH RODRIGUEZ, LEON

FL010056 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda met this afternoon with Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Raul Leon Torras, president of the National Bank of Cuba.

Tonight, the Mexican Embassy in Havana will hold a reception in honor of the Mexican foreign secretary, who is on an official visit here, heading his country's delegation to the fourth meeting of the Cuba-Mexico joint general intergovernment commission. This important meeting will conclude tomorrow after 3 days of sessions.

At the beginning of this meeting, the two countries had signed 36 exchange agreements in the fields of economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation. Many programs are also being developed for new activities and projects and the two governments have reiterated their decision to strengthen and expand existing ties.

STEELWORKING INDUSTRY VICE MINISTER VISITS BULGARIA

For reportage of the visit to Bulgaria by Olegario Galan, vice minister of the Ministry of Steelworking Industry, including his discussions on expanding bilateral production cooperation, see the Bulgaria section of the 1 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SOCIAL SCIENCES CONFERENCE BEGINS IN HAVANA

FL261330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] The fourth scientific conference of social sciences has begun in Havana with nine simultaneous meetings. A total of about 2,000 Cuban, Latin America, and European delegates are attending the conference, which is one of the events being held in commemoration of the 257th anniversary of the founding of the University of Havana. About 600 studies, 25 roundtables, and 8 symposia make up the program of the conference, which will end tomorrow, Wednesday.

REPORT ON RAUL CASTRO TOUR OF PINAR DEL RIO

FL271930 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the party's Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has visited Pinar del Rio Province where he saw the advances made in defense preparations.

At Los Palacios, Raul toured this municipality's main preparations center, whose buildings were constructed with local resources and the help of its militia members.

Army General Raul Castro also presided over the event at which the honorary banners were presented to the 32 battalions which comprise the third congress youth contingent.

Jose Machado Ventura, Politburo member, and Orlando Lugo Fonte, alternate Central Committee member and first party secretary in Pinar del Rio Province, presented the banners to this collective.

At the La Guabina defense zone, Raul presented the national and the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes flags to this province's first mounted company of the Territorial Militia Troops [MTT].

Raul Mena, president of the municipal council of defense of Pinar del Rio Province, gave a speech. After the event ended, Army General Raul Castro gave a brief speech to those present.

[Begin Raul Castro recording] It was really a good idea to hold this simple but evocative activity on a day such as this, the 24th of February, 90 years since the resumption of our independence war. It is an honor for all Cubans and very symbolic to present this small and combat hardened MTT unit the two glorious flags or our independence war. [end recording]

RAMON CASTRO AWARDED CZECHOSLOVAK MEDAL

FL281310 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The gold medal of the Veterinary School of Brno, Czechoslovakia, has been presented to Ramon Castro, director of the Valles de Picadura genetic district of the East Havana Livestock Breeding Enterprise and consultant to the minister of agriculture.

At a ceremony held in Havana, Professor (Yaroslav Tilaftan), rector of the school for higher studies, placed the insignia on Ramon Castro's chest together with the World Food Day Medal of the food and agriculture organization. This medal was awarded to Ramon Castro for his work as an international worker in furthering the development of livestock in various Third World countries.

RIZO ALVAREZ CALLS FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

FL271348 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1205 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the party's Secretariat, has called for the production of more than 21 million quintales of food and 12 million quintals of vegetables in salute to the party's third congress. Rizo gave the closing speech at the second national plenary on food and vegetables at the agricultural fair. The plenary was presided over by Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate Politburo member and president of the Association of Small Farmers.

During the event, the best workers of the year in the agricultural field, and the best cooperatives and enterprises were presented with awards.

VEIGA NOTES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION RECORDS

FL281336 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1204 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The union's work in 1984 showed successes, Roberto Veiga, alternate Politburo member and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], said on making the closing speech at the 14th plenum of the agricultural union's national committee, which was held at the CTC's (Ernest Telman) hall. He underscored that nine agricultural production records had been set in 1984.

CIENFUEGOS COMPANY TO BUY FOOD FROM FARMERS

FL281936 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] This year, the Cienfuegos Provincial Stockpiling Company will buy 1.6 million hundredweight of tubers, vegetables, grain, and fruit from state and private producers. The commercialization of agricultural products in Cienfuegos Province this year will exceed that of 1984 by 200,000 hundredweight.

Most of the accumulated amount will be consumed by the people of the province and a portion will be exported. The Provinces of Villa Clara and City of Havana will also receive some of Cienfuegos' agricultural products.

For outstanding performances last year, the Cienfuegos Provincial Stockpiling Company will award its workers economic incentives amounting to 106,000 pesos. Other funds will be given to the cultural association and for production competitions.

AREA SUMMIT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON GOALS, PROBLEMS

FL010005 Bridgetown CANA in English 2234 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 28, CANA -- Following is the text of the communique issued at the end of this week's meeting here of heads of government of the Commonwealth Caribbean and Canada:

1. The heads of government of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries and Canada met in Kingston, Jamaica, on February 25 and 26, 1985. The heads of government participating in the meeting were Hon Emile Gumbs, chief minister of Anguilla, the Right Hon Sir Lynden Pindling, prime minister of the Bahamas, the Right Hon J.M.G. Adams, prime minister of Barbados, Hon Manuel Esquivel, prime minister of Belize, Hon John Swan, premier of Bermuda, Hon Cyril B. Romney, chief minister of the British Virgin Islands, the Right Hon Brian Mulroney, prime minister of Canada, Hon Eugenia Charles, prime minister of Dominica, Hon Herbert Blaize, prime minister of Grenada, the Right Hon Edward Seaga, prime minister of Jamaica, Hon John Osborne, chief minister of Monsterrat, Hon Dr Kennedy Simmonds, prime minister of St Christopher and Nevis, Hon John Compton, prime minister of St Lucia, Hon James Mitchell, prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Hon Norman Saunders, chief minister of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Hon Lester Bird, deputy prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and Hon Kamaluddin Mohammed, minister of agriculture, lands and food production of Trinidad and Tobago, headed their countries delegation. Mr Shridath Ramphal, secretary general of the Commonwealth, Mr Roderick Rainford, secretary general of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom), Dr Vaughn Lewis, director of the OECS and Mr William Demas, president of the Caribbean Development Bank attended as special guests.

2. The heads of government expressed satisfaction with the meeting which they regarded as timely and valuable opportunity for continuing the dialogue and strengthening the special relationship between their countries. The talks took place in a warm, friendly and informal atmosphere which promoted candour and constructive dialogue.

3. The heads of government considered recently international trends and had a full and open exchange of views on political and economic matters, including disarmament, East-West rivalry, the debt crisis and international trade. They were particularly concerned about the persistent economic problems facing the region and recognised the need for implementing innovative strategies at the national and international levels for dealing with these issues. In this regard, they stressed the special importance of consultation and the strengthening of cooperation with each other. They noted the encouraging movement towards parliamentary democracy in the hemisphere and reaffirmed their support for its consolidation. They registered their concern at the continuing crisis in Central America and restated their firm support for the peace initiative of the Contadora Group.

4. The heads of government discussed the arms race. The looked forward to the successful outcome of the current negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union on arms limitation and expressed their strong desire for a reduction in the global transfer and use of conventional weapons. They expressed concern at the highly disproportionate expediture on arms compared with the allocation of funds for alleviation of human suffering and the promotion of economic and social development.

5. The heads of government reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity of Belize and noted with sympathy that country's desire that British forces remain in Belize until a definitive and peaceful solution is found. They further noted that discussions have been taking place between Belize and Guatemala.

6. In considering the problems of small states, the heads of government engaged in a detailed discussion. They noted in particular that the extreme economic vulnerability of these states creates the possibility of social and political instability. They looked forward to receiving the report on this question from the Commonwealth secretary general which was requested by the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in New Delhi. In discussing this question, they expressed particular concern at the proposal of the World Bank regarding the application solely of per capita criteria to the OECS which will bring to an end the eligibility of those states for IDA resources. They noted that such criteria took no account of the characteristics of such small states, namely, their vulnerability to economic upheaval or natural disasters, open, narrow and undiversified economies, market disadvantages of scale, limited access to resources, inability to carry on heavy debt burden and extreme dependence on external sources of finance. In these circumstances, it is not possible for small states, even in normal times, to obtain commercial or market borrowings in place of IDA credits. The heads therefore agreed that they would take all necessary steps to ensure that these considerations are fully taken into account in the relevant World Bank discussions of the proposal, in particular, their representatives at the bank will be directed by all governments, including Canada, to make clear their unanimous oppositon to this proposal.

7. The heads of government discussed the interrelationship between indebtedness, trade and protectionism. They recognised that while measures such as multi-year rescheduling of debt are important, in the longer term it will only be possible for debtors to meet future obligations and raise living standards if resources are progressively shifted into export activities. They agreed that the success of such a strategy would be largely dependent on less restricted access to foreign markets.

8. The Caribbean heads endorsed the proposal by the prime minister of Jamaica for a one-way free trade area and investment facility to be called Caribcan. The heads of government agreed that the proposal will be studied on a priority basis in the Joint Trade and Economic Committee (JTEC) under the umbrella of the Canada-Caricom joint trade and economic cooperation agreement. It is contemplated that the next meeting of the committee will be held in April, 1985.

9. They also reviewed the preparations for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting to be held in Nassau, Bahamas later in the year and looked forward to a productive meeting with other Commonwealth leaders.

10. The heads of government discussed the shortage of trained manpower in the region with particular reference to the OECS countries and agreed that there was necessity for providing the means for technical assistance and recruiting and training suitable Caribbean personnel to ensure the success of development programmes.

11. They expressed deep appreciation to the prime minister, the government and people of Jamaica for the generous hospitality and the excellent facilities of the Jamaican Conference Centre provided for their meeting and also expressed their appreciation to the Conference Secretariat for its assistance and support facilities.

DOMINICA

UNION LEADER DISCUSSES TRADE MOVEMENT PROBLEMS

FL261928 Bridgetown CANA in English 1734 GMT 26 Feb 85

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 26, CANA -- The head of the Waterfront and Allied Workers Union (WAWU), Louis Benoit, has accused Dominica's political and religious systems of undermining the island's trade union movement.

The religious system in the country is destroying the trade union movement, Benoit claimed at the opening of a one-week seminar dealing with trends and problems in industrial relations. He complained that though workers could see this they refuse to stand or talk about it and defend their trade union. Benoit, whose union is among the most influential, said that traditionally trade unions had always regarded employers as their natural enemy but now the field had been widened to include religious and political organisations. He said that in many cases workers who had joined religious organisations dropped out of the trade union movement, but when you negotiate the best of wages and conditions they will accept.

According to Benoit, more workers were showing loyalty to political parties rather than to the trade union movement. That's the sort of corruption workers get themselves into, he commented.

The trade union leader complained: There are many workers in the country who do not believe in the trade union movement and some of them believe in their employers.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

GUN-MUNRO RETIRES; EUSTACE NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

FL282140 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Feb 28, CANA -- Former education minister and speaker of the House of Assembly, Joseph Lambert Eustace, today formally assumed office as St Vincent and the Grenadines second governor-general since independence in 1979.

Eustace succeeded Sir Sydney Gun-Munro, a surgeon, who has gone into retirement after eight years as head of state.

Sir Sydney said he will reside on the Grenadine island of Bequia where he will return to his medical practice.

In a farewell address to the nation last night, he urged well off nationals to help the less fortunate raise their living standards.

The St Vincent I would like to envisage for the future is a state where every home has running water, a state where every home has decent sanitary facilities, Sir Sydney said.

He called for a stepping up of industrialisation efforts to ease a chronic unemployment problem here. But I would particularly like to see an industrial development centering around the products we produce, he said.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

IMPORTS FROM CARICOM DROP; TRADE BALANCE FAVORABLE

FL212356 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 21, CANA -- Trinidad and Tobago, which has imposed restrictions on imports from the Caribbean Community (Caricom), bought 58 million dollars less in goods from the community for the first 11 months of 1984 than for the corresponding period the year before, latest figures show.

Imports for January to November from Caricom were valued at TT284 million dollars (one TT dollar: 41 cents U.S.), 6.8 percent of the overall total, while domestic exports from the region reached 208.9 million dollars, 4.3 per cent of total domestic exports.

Decreases in imports were recorded from Jamaica (by 37.5 million dollars), Barbados (14.4 million), Antigua (6.7 million), Guyana (5 million, and Grenada 2.3 million), while there were increases from Dominica (3.7 m), Belize (2.1 m), and St Vincent (1.9 m).

The latest overseas trade report by the Central Statistical Office also shows that last November, Trinidad and Tobago recorded an adverse balance of visible trade of TT3.4 million dollars (one TT dollar: 41 cents U.S.).

During November, this country imported goods totalling 412.8 million dollars whilst its exports valued 409.4 million. This resulted in a trade deficit of 3.4 million dollars.

For the period January to November 1984, Trinidad and Tobago bought goods worth 4,205.9 million dollars; exports totalled 4,790.4 million for the period. [figures as received]

This resulted in a favourable balance of trade to the tune of 584.5 million dollars which compares favourably with the deficit of 707 million for the same period in 1983.

OFFICIALS MEET WITH NICARAGUAN REPRESENTATIVE

FL281856 Bridgetown CANA in English 1825 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 28, CANA -- A representative of Nicaragua's Marxist government, Bolivar Dias, has been having talks with officials of the Guyana Government and the ruling party on strengthening cooperation between the two countries. He told reporters his talks with government officials and representatives of the People's National Congress (PNC) focused on technical and cultural cooperation. As a result of the talks, a Nicaraguan delegation will visit Guyana next month for follow up discussions. Nicaragua has always enjoyed the support of Guyana at various international fora and we want to strengthen relations at the bilateral level, the Nicaraguan said.

COMPENSATION PAYMENT TO CANADIAN FIRM EXTENDED

FL282150 Bridgetown CANA in English 2040 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 28, CANA -- Guyana says it has negotiated an extra five years in which to pay the Aluminium Company of Canada (Alcan) compensation for nationalisation in 1971 of the company's bauxite holdings here. The original agreement was for 20 years.

The main ingredients of the agreement were not only the five-year extension but also a preservation of the original favourable interest rate of six per cent per annum with continued application of the 25 per cent withholding tax, a senior government official told CANA.

Guyana was also able to negotiate an enshrining of provisions for retirement of the debt through a linkage with new contractual deliveries of product, the official said.

Guyana had an external debt of 1.23 billion dollars U.S. (one Guy dollar: 22 cents U.S.) outstanding at the beginning of 1985, roughly 62 per cent medium and long term. A Finance Ministry official said Guyana was labouring under the burdens of the debt trap.

REGISTRATION DRIVE ENDS; PPP, WPA PROTEST

FL282146 Bridgetown CANA in English 2028 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 28, CANA -- Guyana's national registration in preparation for this year's general election ended today, amid complaints by both the Marxist People's Progressive Party (PPP) and the small leftist Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) that thousands of people have not been registered.

Both opposition parties claimed that during the 88 days of the exercise, registration officers had not gone to several homes and that the government's announcement two weeks ago urging unregistered citizens to go to registering offices in their areas, was a means of denying those persons [words indistinct] to ensure that their names are placed on the list.

He [as received] denied there was any deliberate attempt to keep people from being registered and said it was a calculated effort to ensure that those who are eligible for registration are in fact registered.

Forty-eight special registration offices were established throughout the country.

More than 900 officers were engaged in the exercise to register all persons born on or before December 31, 1971 (correct).

Local registration began on December 3, last year while for non-resident Guyanese and their spouses, it was conducted from January 2, 1985 through established offices overseas.

The exercise is to be used to prepare a voters list for elections constitutionally due this year.

TUC PRESIDENT SAYS POLICE HARASS UNION LEADERS

FL281800 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The president of the Guyana Trade Union Congress [TUC], the first opposition candidate to preside over the 22-union federation in 18 years, yesterday said he had been harassed by security forces since his election last year.

TUC President George Daniels said union leaders had been harassed since the former leadership, which included five ministers in the government of President Forbes Burnham, was ousted in elections last September. The TUC had been controlled by the ruling People's National Congress since 1966.

Mr Daniels said he had been detained by police during a meeting with workers in the town of New Amsterdam, 70 miles from Georgetown, and that his car had been searched. He said he had also been locked out of the New Amsterdam hospital when he went to talk with its employees, and that at another meeting TUC members had been denied chairs and had been forced to stand.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ALADI MEMBERS TO SIGN INTEGRATION DOCUMENT IN URUGUAY

PY280043 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2218 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 27 Feb (EFE) -- The Latin American presidents, vice presidents, and foreign ministers who will attend the presidential inauguration in Uruguay will sign a document to promote regional integration and to seek an understanding about the foreign debt problem. In a meeting scheduled for 2 March in the ALADI offices, the 11 member countries will ratify their governments' political will to move toward establishing the much desired Latin American common market. Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti will speak during the ceremony as well as Colombian President Belisario Betancur, who will do so on behalf of the visiting presidents. The Montevideo meeting, as it is officially called, will end with the signing of a declaration by all of the high-ranking Latin American officials. Diplomatic sources have told EFE that the declaration is intended to support the task of ALADI, the successor of the Latin American Association for Free Trade, in seeking regional economic integration. The Latin American chiefs will begin establishing high-level contacts to promote concrete measures for the reinforcement of integration. Diplomats linked to ALADI believe that the political declaration of the presidents will be particularly meaningful because it will start off a series of measures to increase regional trade.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BANKS AGREE TO RENEGOTIATE FOREIGN DEBT

FL281702 Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 22 Feb 85 pp 1, 14

[Excerpt] Yesterday, private banks gave their initial consent to the renegotiation of the Dominican foreign debt with the possibility of granting terms and conditions recently outlined in a meeting held here with the Cartagena Consensus debtor countries. The World Bank also agreed to begin talks with the Dominican Republic to finance an economic program. Well-informed sources said creditor banks reported they are willing to grant the Dominican Republic "more convenient terms," but the terms will be subject to the payment schedule of the World Bank and the IMF (also present at yesterday's meeting). At the same time, this payment schedule will be based on the country's estimated cash flow, especially from export income during coming years. Therefore, according to information on hand, Dominican wishes to obtain 10- to 15-year terms amounting to a maximum $260 million annual term payment in captial and interests will depend on that estimated cash flow.

PANAMA

PRD REPRESENTATIVE DEPARTS FOR MONTEVIDEO

PA281953 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Feb 85 p A 4

[From "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Berta Torrijos de Arosemena, who will represent the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], has left for Montevideo to attend the inauguration of the new president of that country, Julio Maria Sanguinetti, a Latin American politician considered a progressive liberal and a prestigious leader of the movement for the democratization of the continent.